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Sensitive compass point in Bonn foreign policy

Historian Waldemar Besson's tenet that each and every change in the climate of East-West conflict affects the foreign policy position of the Federal Republic immediately and profoundly sounds harmless, not to say a truism.

He formulated it in describing how ...d Bonn found it in the late 50s and ...ly 60s, to adjust to the international ...d towards detente.

At times, by stubbornly clinging to traditional formulas and positions, West Germany even found itself out on a limb politically.

The same is true today, alarmingly so, ...lt in different circumstances. Grow... East-West tension is posing problems ... the Social and Free Democratic coalition that has held power in Bonn since 1969.

It too persists in formulas and positions that have grown traditional and like... hold forth the prospect of foreign policy isolation.

Last time round the Bonn government stubbornly resisted East-West talks in which national interests and Bonn security requirements were insufficiently taken into account, or so it felt.

In doing so it got on its allies' nerves. ...clinging with equal tenacity to the ...lts of detente Bonn today is going against the grain in much the same way ...d proving an inconvenient ally, especially for the United States.

Yet there has been no change whatever in the Federal Republic's strategic position on the East-West border, and it is what makes Besson's tenet as ex...sive now as it was in relation to the ...ation 20 years ago.

It forms part of a divided nation with interests that transcend the East-West ...ershed more than in the case of any other ally and vulnerable points of a ...d to which none other is subject.

This state of affairs obliges Bonn to ...e political priorities clearly in the light of the current climate of East-West ties, with special reference to the possibility of greater Soviet pressure being brought to bear on Poland and the West, under US leadership, debating and deciding on counter-measures.

For a variety of reasons it may be inappropriate to engage in contingency planning in public, drawing up a graduated sequence of responses to varying degrees of intervention in Poland.

Yet Bonn must nonetheless be clear in its own mind how much political leeway it retains and how it can best look after its interests.

Where leeway is concerned, it decreases each time tension increases. Bonn's ability to modify US foreign policy in keeping with German interests is on the decline.

Whenever security and military policy become the overriding problem the influence of the Western superpower increases, since the United States alone can guarantee the Federal Republic's military security.

Whenever tension increases, Europe's special role declines correspondingly in importance, and for exactly the same reasons. Difficulties can then even arise in connection with Franco-German ties, which in the months that followed the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan were instrumental in embarking on European crisis management.

The Franco-German communiqué of February 1980 included the much-vaunted statement that detente would not withstand a fresh blow of this kind (meaning Afghanistan).

It seems to have been more than an expression of protest as far as M. Giscard d'Estaing was concerned; it was an authentic pointer to what French policy would be after intervention in Poland.

There is indeed talk in Bonn of a rectification of French policy — a rectification to which there may well have been a number of contributory factors.

*There is, for instance, the French Pre*sidential election campaign. There is M. Giscard d'Estaing's disappointment with the outcome of his Warsaw talks with Mr Brezhnev.

There is the particular sensitivity of the French when it comes to East European dissidents in general and Poles in particular.

In Bonn at least it is felt that the rectification has not just been one of terminology (there can no longer be any question of detente, French diplomats now say).

Observers in the West German capital reckon French policy has undergone changes in content, not just form.

They sense a readiness to adopt a tougher approach towards the Soviet Union than hitherto, even in trade policy, in which the French have previously paid no heed to US boycott wishes.

If French cover for Bonn's policy is reduced, Bonn's policy leeway will be reduced correspondingly.

The Bonn government can expect no assistance from the Opposition either. Indeed, the Christian Democrats have so far endorsed all US wishes without ap*pearing to give matters much thought* as long as Bonn was called on to trim its detente sails.

Gone are the days — long gone — when Gaullists in CDU/CSU ranks warned against clinging to the apron-strings of overall US strategy. Nowadays it is the Social Democrats who regret the passing of Gaullist ideas. In its efforts to lay bare the illusory nature of detente policy the CDU/CSU has hardly gone to the trouble of undertaking a detailed analysis of what German interests are. What results of detente deserve preservation? On what must Bonn continue to insist in the national interest and in view of its security? The Federal Republic would be hardest hit by any blow to the status of West Berlin, a status that lays the foundations for human easements and for the city's viability.

True enough, Berlin is not just a German problem; it is also a problem for the alliance. Its viability is a yardstick of the success of Western (especially US) policy.

It is an indication of whether the West can count on support. So not only the Germans are vulnerable in Berlin; so is the United States.

No-one could possibly want a reversion to the state of affairs so aptly outlined by Dr Kissinger in his memoirs. "Nothing," he wrote, "could change the geographical reality of a city that was 100 miles inside communist territory, isolated, exposed to pinpricks and continually liable to blackmail."

This sensitive situation appears to have been forgotten by a number of people who are currently proclaiming the end of detente in both Washington and Bonn.

Bonn's opportunities of maintaining the status of Berlin and a modicum of human easement between the two German states are limited.

It must strictly abide by existing treaties and agreements with East Berlin and Moscow. It must persevere with intra-German trade even though it may have become something of a pain in the neck to Bonn's allies in Europe.

It must also steer clear of countermeasures that could prove to the detriment of relations between individuals on

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The Moroccan Prime Minister, Mr Maati Bouabid (right) greets Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in Rabat. (Photo: dpa)

Schmidt in Morocco

Helmut Schmidt ended a two-day official visit to Morocco on 7 January against the background of a tour of several Middle Eastern countries by former US Secretary of State Kissinger.

The precise nature of Dr Kissinger's mission was unclear but Herr Schmidt's visit certainly gained in significance over and above bilateral ties between Bonn and Rabat.

These ties have long been good and untroubled. In view of plans for Spain and Portugal to join the EEC the Moroccan government hopes Germany will lend a hand in looking after its economic interests in European markets.

But this issue will have played a minor role in the unusually lengthy talks between Chancellor Schmidt and King Hassan and other leading members of the Moroccan government.

So will the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq and the five years of desert warfare between Moroccan government troops and Polisario forces in the former Spanish Sahara.

It is worth noting that Herr Schmidt visited Morocco just before his Foreign Minister, Herr Genscher, was due to visit Algeria, while the Libyan leader, Colonel Gaddafi, is expected to visit Bonn shortly.

Bonn and Rabat *largely agreed on* peace efforts in the Middle East. King Hassan feels the bid by EEC countries to reactivate the Middle East peace dialogue by proposals of their own is both useful and to the point.

Dr Kissinger's talks in Morocco will undoubtedly have dealt with the country's security interests. Rabat is keen to ensure, with US backing, that neither Algeria nor Libya, with Soviet support, gain influence in North-West Africa, including the Azores and the Canary Islands.

Morocco feels the western approaches to the Mediterranean must definitely remain under Western control.

Richard Manders
(Nordwest Zeitung, 8 January 1981)

IN THIS ISSUE

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Namibia talks get under way in Geneva

The Geneva conference on Namibia, held only after a lengthy tug-of-war, has not got off to a very encouraging start.

True, it is the first time representatives of the South African government have ever officially met round the conference table with delegates of Swapo, the liberation movement Pretoria regards as a terrorist organisation.

But it has not so far looked as though the talks, held under the aegis of the UN, were likely to make swift headway.

South Africa refuses to accept Swapo as the official representative of Namibia; it insists on full and equal representation of its protégé, the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, at any talks.

So for the time being Pretoria is sticking to its old approach, that of pursuing delaying tactics.

Namibia, the former German South-West Africa, is the last territory in Africa that has yet to gain independence. It is still governed under trusteeship awarded to South Africa by the League of Nations after the First World War.

The United Nations cancelled South Africa's trustee status many years ago, but de facto the situation remains unchanged.

In 1978 the five Western members of the UN Security Council, including Bonn, embarked on a plan designed to lead to independence for the territory.

But the South African government refused to cooperate and held elections of its own in Namibia in which Swapo was unable and indeed unwilling to take part.

Neither the United Nations nor other governments have recognised the Council of Ministers then installed under the supervision of a South African administrator-general.

The five Western powers and the African front-line states are both represented at the Geneva conference as observers.

The immediate objective of the conference is to end mistrust and bring about peace between South Africa and Swapo, which mainly operates from countries bordering on Namibia.

But many obstacles stand in the way. As a token of good will Swapo, for instance, demands the release of its supporters imprisoned in South Africa.

The South Africa government, on the other hand, would sooner risk a confrontation with the United Nations than help install a terrorist group in Namibia, its Foreign Minister, Mr Botha, says.

But this is unlikely to have been South Africa's last word on the subject.

Of the five Western initiators of the Namibia resolution at the UN Bonn in particular has engaged in especially active diplomacy, and there are several *reason why Germany should show such* keen interest.

There are still about 30,000 Germans living in Namibia for whom Bonn feels a *certain responsibility*, so the West German government is anxious to bring about a solution based on peaceful racial coexistence.

This would guarantee the security of ethnic Germans in the territory, but Bonn has also always been eager to ensure that newly independent countries *gain genuine* self-determination and independence.

Were Swapo to grow dependent on the East as a result, say, of Soviet arms *supplies, its seizure* of power in Namibia would change the balance of power in Africa to the detriment of the West.

South Africa cannot be interested in *events taking this course*, so there are hopes that the Geneva conference will at some stage reach a successful conclusion nonetheless.

Free elections under UN supervision cannot be held until a cease-fire has been agreed between South Africa and Swapo, and they alone can lead to independence.

Yet it seems most unlikely that mistrust between the two sides can be brought to an end at a sufficient pace to enable elections to be held before the end of 1981.

But time is working against South Africa *and for Namibian independence.* The example of Rhodesia should surely persuade the South Africans that with good will on both sides a reasonable solution is far from impossible.

None of those concerned should forget that the Geneva conference is probably the final opportunity of negotiating a peaceful settlement of the Namibian conflict.

If the talks break down there will be grave danger of an unremitting struggle beginning in which the front-line states will participate.

Werner Bollmann

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 9 January 1981)

Continued from page 1

both sides of the intra-German border. This indeed is the bedrock of what Bonn in its own and the national interest must on no account accept as being *negotiable.*

It will have to reconsider a number of other issues if the climate of East-West ties deteriorates further, however. Each *and every step in this direction is sure* to lead to painful realisations.

Two issues in particular will need reappraising. They are trade with the East *bloc and security policy.*

On trade with the East bloc there is a fairly common European interest in maintaining trade ties as unimpaired as possible. The sole exception is intra-German trade, which makes the GDR an EEC member in all but name.

For Europe, as opposed to the United States, trade with the East bloc is by no means a minor consideration.

It cannot simply be brought to halt for strategic reasons because it is of vital importance for Europe in general and the Federal Republic in particular.

Were trade with the East bloc to grind to a halt the repercussions for the West German economy would be serious. A number of leading companies (and a fair number of small fry) would be driven to the brink of insolvency.

Yet East bloc intervention in Poland would assuredly result in all major East bloc projects on which agreement has not yet been reached being cancelled.

The natural gas contract with the Soviet Union would be out of the question even though it makes sound economic sense, for instance.

The list of *strategic goods the supply* of which to the Soviet Union would be made longer. This might well make it more difficult for Moscow; it would definitely be *no less detrimental* to Bonn.

As for security policy, if the climate of East-West ties were to deteriorate further the dispute as to whether Bonn's *defence estimates should* be increased by three per cent in real terms would probably be old hat.

Bonn could certainly expect no support *from France, which is already* stepping up defence spending by a high percentage. It would be wishful thinking to imagine one might be able to stave off the situation by referring to budget difficulties.

The Bonn government will be in an even more difficult position when the stationing of new *medium-range* nuclear missiles grows imminent.

Hopes of arms control negotiations between the superpowers either limiting or putting paid to this move are already little more than wishful thinking.

If the freeze *continues* all that remains of the twofold Nato *decision* of December 1979 is sure to be *the decision* to modernise nuclear arms based in Europe.

The Federal Republic will then be in the dilemma of *having to do more* to maintain a military balance in order to salvage a vestige of detente.

Against this background it is clear that Bonn *is in no position to decide* on its own the extent to which it is prepared to adjust to the rules of a new cold war.

Each and every further deterioration in the East-West climate *makes* Bonn's policy more of a reflection of East-West ties, and Bonn can only evade this by at the cost of isolation from its allies.

Yet it is also clear that detente is more than a mere weird ideology espoused by unrealistic enthusiasts. It is a policy that brings about *a state of affairs* in which the Federal Republic is able to pursue its national interests.

It is well worth while salvaging as many of the achievements *of detente* as possible — worth even the Bonn opposition's while.

Rolf Zundel

(Die Zeit, 9 January 1981)

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Genscher visits Algeria

Bonn is serious in saying it wants to intensify the North-South dialogue and to consolidate European-Arab partnership.

Days after Chancellor Schmidt's visit to Morocco Foreign Minister Genscher flew to Algeria for a three-day official visit. In February he is due to visit Egypt.

Algeria is a particularly interesting field of activity for West German foreign policy. The new Algerian leadership headed by President Chadli has embarked on a course that is clearly at an arm's length from that of the Soviet Union.

The country's basic political orientation remains unchanged, with an Algerian road to socialism seeking to combine Mohammed and Marx.

But Algeria, with its swiftly dwindling oil reserves, is increasingly trying to establish a special position for itself in the non-aligned world.

Bonn fully respects this policy, Herr Genscher emphasised in an interview given before he flew to Algiers. Algeria is regarded as a proving ground for complete reorientation of ties between the industrialised world and the mature countries of the developing world.

Against the background of EEC expansion in the *Mediterranean* region relations between Western Europe and the Arab world are of particular importance.

Common interests must be identified and care taken to ensure that clashes of interest are avoided.

Unlike Egypt and Morocco, Algeria is a country that still finds it hard to believe in the possibility of a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

At the same time the Algerian government keeps its distance from those who are keen to bring the situation *in the Middle* East to a head.

Algeria is more interested in a greater degree of domestic stability than in uncertain foreign policy adventures of the kind *to* which Libya in particular, its neighbour to the east, is inclined.

In this connection there must be hopes of a far-reaching understanding between Algeria and the EEC countries.

Algeria is currently reeling under the repercussions of the Al Asnam earthquake, which made about three per cent of its population of roughly 19.5m homeless.

It is also affected by the population explosion and consequent mass unemployment. Only about a fifth of the Algerian labour force is fully employed.

So *Algiers* is not unduly interested in modern Western technology. Labour-intensive enterprises are what it needs for the most part.

The number of foreign experts in Algeria is felt to be too large. What Algeria wants are projects entailing a division of labour as a result of which both domestic and foreign markets can be supplied.

Since the death of President Boumedienne the country has embarked on a cautious policy of liberalisation, but growing public expectations of improvements in supplies of consumer goods have so far not been fulfilled.

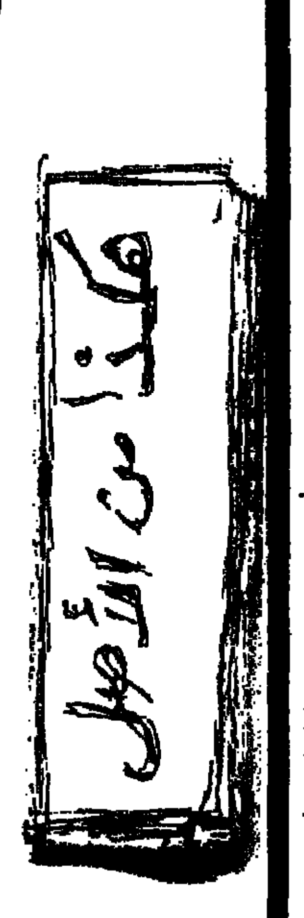
Herr Genscher will have tried in Algiers to persuade his hosts that cooperation with the West in many fields is not only risk-free but may also prove both beneficial and profitable.

He was able to refer to the EEC's Middle East proposals to show that Europe has a mind of its own and is not just the extended arm of the United States.

It will be interesting to see what importance Algeria attaches to Bonn's approach. If interest is shown, entirely new aspects could arise.

Franz Pegeler

(Nordwest Zeitung, 12 January 1981)



HOME AFFAIRS

Berlin mayor in a quandary over disarray in administration

A major *reshuffle of the Berlin* Senate, (the city-state's cabinet) is nearing its climax as one senator after another resigns.

Economic *Affairs Senator Wolfgang* Lüder, Finance Senator Klaus Riebschläger and Housing Senator Harry Ristock have already handed in their resignations.

More are likely, among them public health Senator Pätzold's. Other senators have every reason to worry about their posts.

Rarely before has a Berlin government been in such disarray. This is not surprising considering that the last decade holds the record *in scandals.*

The affair concerning Berlin's guarantee for loans to the architect Dietrich Garski which are now being called by the banks *and which involve more than* DM100m, was directly responsible for the resignation of Senators Riebschläger and Lüder while the squatters in condemned tenements *who bear witness to the* wrong housing concept led to the resignation of Senator Ristock.

But these affairs are only links in a long *chain of mismanagement. In fact,* some people speak of an "ungovernable city".

Granted, the nuts Berlin's politicians have *to crack are particularly* tough. The city has an above-average ratio of old people *and its young* people are more rebellious *than* elsewhere.

There *is a shortage* of reasonable housing, the economy is vulnerable and unbalanced. The amply flowing subsidies have failed to shore it up, and Berlin's business *community and city* administration are short of capable upper echelon staff. Moreover, the city's geographical position as an enclave on GDR territory *imposes considerable* practical and psychological burdens.

Still, outside pressure has decreased since the 1971 Four Power Agreement *and the ties with the Federal Republic* of Germany are not in jeopardy.

But internal conflicts seem to have increased in direct proportion to the *diminishing threat from outside.*

Before the Four Power Agreement the Berliners were much more apt to close ranks than they are now. This need for *solidarity in the face of a threat from* outside minimised the internal conflicts. The trump cards in those days were discipline and willingness to compromise.

Such threats to existence frequently not only strengthened a city but also brought to the fore leadership personalities capable of coping with the situation.

Berlin had people like Ernst Reuter and Willy Brandt at the helm and they proved their worth in the city's worst times.

Reuter and Brandt were confronted with clearly defined challenges. Today's governing mayor, Dietrich Stobbe (and, to a lesser extent, his predecessor Klaus Schütz), holds the same office but the conditions under which he has to work are probably even worse.

Berlin's governing mayor must be many things. He must be a municipal politician, the head of a state government with a function in federal politics *and the foreign minister of a city which* has to arrive at arrangements with the three Western powers as well as with the Soviet Union and the GDR. And to *make matters worse, Stobbe is also the* state chairman of a party whose infighting makes headlines time and again.

There is not much to be said about *the Berlin SPD* except that after being in government for decades it is more than ripe for the role of an opposition party. In fact, this is the only way in *which it can regenerate itself.*

Stobbe has not succeeded in streamlining the party, which is marked by nepotism and smugness.

Stobbe, who assumed office four years ago with elan and the best of intentions, must be pitied today. There is no point in his trying find new senators outside *Berlin. Who would want to join an* emergency cabinet? And in Berlin itself there are almost no convincing personalities to be found.

Stobbe *will now present a last ditch* cabinet — and even this is putting it mildly.

If there were a suitable successor for the post of *governing mayor he would* probably have to expect to be asked to resign.

The present crisis could well be an *opportunity for the opposition.* But the CDU, the city's strongest party, has no scope of action as long as SPD and FDP hold on their coalition.

In any event, the Berlin CDU is not politically convincing, and what lustre it has comes from Richard von Weizsäcker who is not a Berliner.

It is understandable that the CDU wants new elections to be held. But it is equally understandable that the two coalition parties will refuse to go along *with such a suicidal move.*

They can only pin their hopes on the forgetfulness of the electorate which will have its say again in two years.

The CDU already has more campaign ammunition than it needs.

Hartmut Contenius

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 9 January 1981)

Genscher warns opponents of boosted defence

Nordwest Zeitung

Compared with the warnings of the previous few days, what FDP Chairman *Hans-Dietrich Genscher had* to say to his Bonn coalition partner at the traditional January congress of his party was no more than a mild appeal.

The day before, his party's secretary-general, Günter Verheugen, said that the SPD had quite unnecessarily developed a nervous tic and showed signs of an identity crisis.

It seems quite obvious that the Free Democrats are rehearsing a tune to be played with different instruments. The melody was *composed in keeping with* the success recipe used at the last parliamentary elections: make it absolutely clear that the Bonn coalition consists of two independent *parties and attack the* SPD publicly when necessary while at the same time conveying the impression that it was the liberals who ultimately *guaranteed* the success of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

Ever since the Erich Mende era the liberals have been masters in not letting anybody *get the* better of them. But now, having cornered 10 per cent of the vote at the last elections, the FDP will also want to show that, unlike the SPD, it does not *curtail the Chancellor's scope* of action.

Any means is acceptable in trying to achieve this. All of a sudden old SPD working *documents* are being dug out in an effort to warn the coalition partner against going overboard in its demands.

The dissatisfaction of Social Democrats who failed to get their way now serves to depict large sections of the *SPD as wailers and gnashers of teeth* and schemers.

The liberals also profit from the widespread speculation that Justice Minister *Hans-Jochen Vogel could one day* succeed Helmut Schmidt. The liberals stress how bad it is to indulge in such speculation while Schmidt is still in office. *They point to their own stand* and to the fact that they opted for Schmidt for a full four years — and that's that.

This, they say, is what the electorate wanted to hear because it had voted in Schmidt but not necessarily the SPD.

There can be little doubt that the tune is a hit with *the public. But this* very tune annoys the Social Democrats for whom Schmidt has gone too far in backing the FDP and whose own ideas were badly mauled in the *coalition negotiations.*

Even if the election success was due more to the Schmidt-Genscher team than the FDP programme the Free Democrats have benefited from it in the form of more influence in governing the nation.

The most serious acid test for the new SPD/FDP government will probably lie in security.

Despite Genscher's *mild manner* at the meeting there was no ignoring his serious admonishment directed at the Social Democratic opponents of the decision to beef up the medium-range nuclear defence potential in Europe.

He is firm in his belief that this modernisation process must begin if *arms control negotiations are to be successful.*

Many Social Democrats, on the other hand, say that talks should precede the arms buildup. Here, Schmidt and Genscher see eye to eye; and so the coalition will get its way by the skin of its teeth.

There is no chance of the FDP opting for another coalition partner because the CDU could certainly not shore up the Liberals' image as the SPD has done — especially in view of its ideas on security and economic policy.

Peter Hopen

(Nordwest Zeitung, 7 January 1981)

Bonn ready to act on Nato decisions

The Bonn Government is prepared to go ahead and defy a group of Social Democrat MPs over its dual Nato decision made in December 1979.

This means entering new arms limitation talks with Moscow and, at the same time, beefing up German defences to offset Soviet nuclear supremacy.

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher have been buttressed in their views by the CDU/CSU who agreed that implementing this decision will be one of the most important tasks this year.

The debate on the stationing of new American medium range missiles has been rekindled by statements made by the foreign policy spokesman of the SPD in parliament, Karsten Voigt.

This was preceded by internal debates on this subject in Holland and Belgium. The debate has also been promoted by speculation on the new US administration's plans for the stationing in Europe of even more nuclear missiles and aircraft capable of delivering nuclear devices.

Voigt said in a radio broadcast that the Nato decision would create a new situation should the Reagan Administration jeopardise the Salt process.

The first Salt agreement was signed while the second one remained unratified by the US Senate. Yet preliminary talks on a third agreement have already started.

Voigt said in his broadcast that, since President Reagan intends to review the entire disarmament complex, a new discussion has obviously been kindled among the Nato partners. The SPD, he said, could not accept any concept of military supremacy as called for by Reagan's advisers.

The Nato decision of 1979, he said, was already out of keeping with some major resolutions of the SPD party congress in 1979.

CSU MP Hüyn replied to this saying that while Moscow was boosting its missiles aimed at Western Europe the SPD was stepping up its campaign against the implementation of the Nato decision.

In his New Year's message, Foreign Minister Genscher stressed that the West's policy towards the East Bloc still aimed at cooperation and reconciliation of interests on the basis of military parity. He said: "We want to maintain this parity at as low a level of armament as possible."

Referring to certain trends in the SPD and some Nato countries, Herr Genscher said that in this serious international situation any questioning of the Nato decision would jeopardise our common security and be directed against the realistic basis of efforts to secure peace.

CDU MP Mertes said that there were serious conflicts between the government policy pursued by Schmidt, Genscher and Apel and a strong element within the SPD.

The 1979 Nato decision provides for the stationing as of 1983 of new American medium range missiles in Britain, Holland, Belgium, Italy and Germany.

The move has met with strong opposition in Holland; and there is every likelihood that the Dutch will elect a new government in May.

Bonn has from the very beginning opposed the stationing of the new American missiles in Germany alone.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 3 January 1981)

■ HUMANITARIAN AID

Vietnam floods cause rethink by politicians of all persuasions

Aid for floodswept Vietnam was a cause espoused by politicians at both ends of the political spectrum as 1980 drew to a close in the Federal Republic of Germany.

It was an unlikely issue for left and right to make common cause; so much so that very idea had a Dickensian Christmas Carol ring.

Five years after the end of 30 years of warfare in Indo-China the country is still not at peace, and political unrest was accompanied a few weeks ago by a natural disaster on a par with the Italian earthquakes.

Yet little or no mention was made of the flood that swept Vietnam in Western Europe. *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper, in November published an appeal for assistance from Roman Catholic bishops in Vietnam.

The floods had made 3.5m Vietnamese homeless, the appeal claimed, and hurricanes and flooding had destroyed a large part of Vietnam's rice harvest.

We need help from the West, the bishops said in an appeal that was altogether explosive, especially in its political context.

Yet it went largely unmentioned in the West German media, thus proving largely irrelevant in the Federal Republic, where it took — by no means for the first time — a civic campaign group to prompt the politicians into action.

It was the *Kommitee Notärzte*, or Emergency Medical Committee, which had rescued more than 5,000 refugees from death by drowning in the South China Sea over the previous 10 months.

The Committee is a Cologne-based aid organisation that also provides medical care for 50,000 refugees in Somalia and has set up a hospital in Uganda.

It had long been aware that its aid to Vietnam was somewhat onesided. Saving refugees from death by drowning is one thing, helping starving people in Vietnam is another.

Both are necessary and the Committee is happy to feel it can now help in both cases. In the wake of the bishops' appeal for assistance the Vietnamese government granted one of its executive officers an entry visa.

As a result the first relief vessel with 2,000 tonnes of rice on board is Vietnam-bound and was due to arrive in Saigon in mid-January.

A further vessel with a cargo of medicine and medical equipment for a hospital is to follow.

The Vietnamese government has accepted the two conditions on which the Committee insists before launching aid operations anywhere. They are:

1. Committee field workers will supervise aid activities.

2. Journalists from the Federal Republic are to be allowed to cover operations and to inform donors about how they are progressing.

It insists on these conditions because it relies entirely on donations to fund the work of more than 800 doctors and nurses who give their labour free of charge.

This being so, the Committee is dependent on publicity to help keep the donations coming in. This newspaper has always been more than happy to oblige.

There can be few precedents for the Vietnamese government allowing an aid organisation to work in Vietnam that also rescues refugees in the South China.

A number of Communists in Hanoi must have ridden rough shod over their ideological convictions.

In Germany too the political groundwork has been well laid. The appeal for donations includes the signatures of Social Democratic *Land* Premier Johannes Rau of North Rhine-Westphalia and Christian Democratic *Land* Premier Bernhard Vogel of the Rhineland-Palatinate.

It has also been endorsed by Protestant theologian Helmut Gollwitzer and by Matthias Wissmann, head of the *Junge Union*, the youth organisation of the Christian Democrats.

Writer Heinrich Böll, generally regarded as a left-winger, has signed the appeal. So has Matthias Walden, the conservative journalist and political commentator.

Bonn Bundestag MPs who have signed include Christian Democrat Norbert Blüm and Free Democrat Helga Schuchardt, also the development aid spokesmen of the three parliamentary parties, Elmar Pieroth (CDU), Uwe Holtz (SPD) and Manfred Vohrer (FDP).

So the DM3m immediately required will doubtless be raised, enabling a helping hand to be extended to thousands, but Vietnam's economic circumstances nonetheless remain appalling.

What the Committee does is important but can do little more than set an example, as well it should. The Bonn government, as Professor Gollwitzer points out, has yet to honour a pledge of DM80m in development aid made to the Saigon government of General Thieu.

The pledge was reiterated to the country's new Communist rulers after the fall of Saigon in 1975, but aid was shelved, and rightly so, when the mass exodus of refugees known as boat people began.

Washington too stopped aid to Vietnam in protest at the Hanoi government's attitude towards its own refugees.

Journalists recently returned from Vietnam have gained the impression that the government there is in the process of freeing itself from the Soviet Union's total embrace.

Development aid from the West that helps to enable a Third World country to establish a degree of independence of its superpower could well prove a sound investment.

Aid to forgotten Vietnam is both immediately needed and politically feasible, and this latest private aid campaign is also important in a West German political context.

A number of people who signed the appeal on the Committee's behalf had to ride rough-shod over their political convictions and run the risk of being pilloried by their political friends.

Vietnam is still such an emotion-laden issue that misunderstanding is almost inevitable.

Yet for once public figures at both ends of the political spectrum have seen fit jointly to endorse a humanitarian, but at the same time immensely political appeal for assistance.

Heinrich Böll and Helmut Gollwitzer on the one hand and Bernhard Vogel, Elmar Pieroth and Norbert Blüm on the other were unable to do so in connection, say, with the boat people.

No Social Democratic Premier had backed an appeal on their behalf. Professor Gollwitzer refused to do so because it was one-sided assistance.

Playwright Peter Weiss even sought to justify the notorious re-education camps in Vietnam, going so far as to write:

"To protect the lives of 50 million people a few ten thousand who are a national menace must be kept under lock and key."

Rudi Dutschke, the 1968 student leader, and Heinrich Böll, the Nobel Prize-winning Cologne novelist, begged to differ.

Socialism if it was to be worthy of the name, they said, must never countenance breaches of human rights.

Hellmut Gollwitzer, in a recent interview, said: "Re-education camps are bad, but still better than blood shed in vengeance, as it has been so often in history."

Bernhard Vogel and Elmar Pieroth use a different argument to justify their support for the Committee's aid appeal, support that must have come as a surprise to many fellow-Christian Democrats.

They base their surprise endorsement of aid to Vietnam on the convincing new development aid policy principle embraced by the Bonn Opposition.

This tenet is that any man in need is a friend of ours, regardless of the regime under which he lives. It is CDU policy. The party will no doubt need reminding of the fact from time to time.

There are a variety of motives that can be attributed to those associated with this Grand Coalition in development aid, but all share a desire to lend a helping hand over and above ideological fronts.

Aid to the boat people was a cause many left-wingers found hard to espouse, much as many conservatives may now find aid to people in need in communist Vietnam a bitter pill to swallow.

The crucial factor, however, is the ability on both sides to take humanity more seriously than ideology in case of doubt. It is a case of aid regardless of everything.

What a promising political start to 1981!

Franz Alt

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 4 January 1981)

Foundation for victims of Auschwitz

"What does this Polish swine want?" CO Fritsch of Auschwitz sullenly demanded one July day in 1941. He was referring to No. 16 670 Kolbe, Maximilian, a Franciscan priest.

Fr Kolbe stepped forward, a slender figurre, and explained that he was prepared to face death instead of Franciszek Gajowniczek, who was a family man.

Fritsch nodded. A prisoner had escaped, so to deter other would-be escapees 10 others were to be consigned to the starvation bunker.

"You lot will dry out like dust in here," the SS torturers said with cynical glee as they locked the door of the bunker.

When they opened it again a fortnight later only four still showed signs of life. They included Fr Kolbe. These four living skeletons had carbolic acid injected into their veins.

On 14 August Fr Kolbe, aged 47, was the last of the four to die in agony. "Hatred," he had always told his fellow-sufferers, "is not a creative force. Let us pray."

In 1971 the Auschwitz martyr was canonised. Two years later, in solidarity with the victims of Nazi atrocities and their next-of-kin, the Central Committee of German Catholics and 13 other laymen's associations set up a charitable foundation that bore his name.

During Whitsuntide 1964, while the Auschwitz trial was in progress in Frankfurt, a group of young Germans, mostly members of the Pax Christi movement, made a journey of pilgrimage and atonement to the former concentration camp near Cracow.

It was intolerable, they felt, that so long after the end of the war their country had done nothing to help Polish concentration camp survivors, who mostly drew a pittance in disablement pensions.

The young people decided to lend a helping financial hand to a couple they met who had been inmates at Auschwitz.

This led to the establishment of a fund-raising scheme that would, however, in the long term have found it hard to bankroll regular allowances.

"The Maximilian Kolbe Foundation," its 1973 statutes laid down, "has been set up with the express purpose of lending financial support to Poles who were victims of the Nazi regime of injustice who have fallen on hard times, or to their next-of-kin, as a token of solidarity."

Unless they live in the West or were victims of pseudo-medical experiments, Polish survivors of Nazi concentration camps have received not a cent in individual compensation.

Franciszek Gajowniczek, now nearly 80, lives in Brzeg, Lower Silesia. Due to so-called medical experiments he is not one of the 3,000-odd Poles who regularly receive dollar gift coupons from the foundation named after the man to whom he owed his life.

The monthly allowance is a regular DM50. Over the years the Kolbe Foundation has remitted roughly DM9m in reparations payments.

Concentration camp prisoners' widows are particularly hard off. Unlike the pensions paid to survivors whose health was impaired, their widows' allowances have not been increased on a par with those of war invalids.

Letters of acknowledgment received daily at the foundation's Freiburg headquarters testify how grateful the widows are for the extra assistance.

"It is as though I had grown wings despite my age and my serious illness," wrote the 75-year-old widow of a man who died in Auschwitz.

"The Kolbe Foundation not only remits cash; it also sends medicine, hearing aids and invalid chairs and arranges for sanatorium treatment.

The money comes from membership dues, an annual collection at Church

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PERSPECTIVES

Nazi-era judges face a belated judgement

DIE ZEIT

For the first time in German judicial history judges have now accused their Nazi era peers of having bent the law to kill a man.

There is only one profession in Germany which leaves murderers among them unblemished: that of judges. So far, they have always seen to it that their "guild" remained clean.

There were hundreds of murderers in judges' robes during the Third Reich. Yet none has ever been punished for his crimes, not even Hans-Joachim Rehse who was an assessor at Hitler's notorious "People's Court". He gained a topnotch acquittal which posthumously removed much of the stain even from Roland Freisler, the most bloodthirsty of Hitler's judges.

Now Germany's judiciary is faced with a verdict by judges against judges. In fact, the verdict has already been pronounced in the first instance: shortly before Christmas, a Berlin court acquitted Marinus van der Lubbe, the man who set fire to the Reichstag building in 1933, and accused his judges at the time of having murdered him by bending the law. *Of course, they are all dead and can no longer stand trial.*

Van der Lubbe's role has been controversial for a long time — but primarily among historians. The question for them was whether he set fire to the Reichstag only on month after Hitler came to power acting on his own or in collusion with other Communists; or, indeed, as a tool of Hitler's party.

Today it is generally agreed that he acted on his own. This was also the view of the Leipzig court which, in the course of a trial lasting several months, passed a death sentence on 23 December 1933 for high treason and arson. Van der Lubbe was executed by guillotine on 10 January 1934.

Four of his co-defendents, the Bulgarian Communists Dimitrov, Popov and Tanev and the floor leader in the Reichstag of the German Communist Party, Ernst Torgler, were acquitted.

The death sentence against van der Lubbe was murder from the bench. The court imposed capital punishment on the basis of a decree by the president of the Reich that was passed after the event. In fact, this decree "for the protection of the people and the state" was specifically intended as a revenge for the Reichstag fire.

This verdict clearly violated the Weimar Constitution (which was still in force) which forbade retroactive punishment. The judges were well aware of this when passing sentence.

The sentence was therefore lifted as far back as 1967 under the law governing restitution for victims of the Nazi regime. The 1967 court ruling was based on a lawsuit by van der Lubbe's brother, Johan. The Berlin court that dealt with the matter commuted the original sentence to an 8-year prison term for arson.

But Johan van der Lubbe and the public prosecutor at the time, Hans Günther (meanwhile deceased) wanted much more: They wanted absolute vindication of Marinus van der Lubbe in the form of an acquittal.

Though they did not deny that he did set fire to the Reichstag, they argued that this was a legitimate act of resistance against the Nazi dictatorship whose first arbitrary action had been to dissolve the Reichstag only a few days before it was set alight.

The Restitution Act in fact stipulates that those persecuted by the Nazi regime are entitled to compensation even if their act of resistance violated the criminal code. This principle was upheld in a precedent case by the Federal Court which ruled that "resistance at that time could not use the means available in a system of government that recognises and upholds basic civil rights."

Prosecutor Günther argued that this also applies to restitution which did not involve money but the removal of a criminal stamp imposed by the Nazi judiciary. As a result, he argued, all that mattered was whether van der Lubbe committed arson as a signal of resistance against the regime and whether the sentence passed by the Nazi court was to be deemed "political persecution".

Herr Günther had amassed many pieces of ecidence to substantiate the resistance motivation of van der Lubbe and the persecution motivation of the court.

Before setting fire to the Reichstag, van der Lubbe had repeatedly said that he intended to set a signal as a rallying call against the seizure of power by the Nazis.

The court at the time accepted this version, saying that van der Lubbe wanted to start a rebellion against the Nazi regime and that he had thus violated the Constitution.

But the Constitution they referred to was not that of the Weimar Republic, which was still in force, but the arbitrary one of the newly established Nazi state.

The summation of the Leipzig court reads like a Nazi tirade ("The last hour has struck for the political parties that wanted to make the German people a pawn in their class struggle slogans, the Marxists and the Communists. A wave of faith is engulfing the Führer Adolf Hitler.")

It is perfectly in keeping with this attitude that the panel rose and gave the Hitler salute to Göring and Goebbels when they appeared in court as witnesses.

The Communist co-defendent, Dimitrov, who defended himself because the court denied him a layer of his choice, was constantly interrupted while Göring



Marinus van der Lubbe

(Photo: Ullstein)

was permitted to threaten him with murder "as soon as we get you outside the jurisdiction of this court."

There can be no doubt that the most senior judges of the Weimar Republic stooped to becoming stooges and henchmen of the Nazi regime only a few months after it came to power. At that time, they were not subject to physical and psychological pressure.

It cannot be taken as a mitigating circumstance that they did not conform to the regime's wishes in acquitting the other defendents.

In 1968, 35 years later, the first criminal panel of Berlin's highest court was miffed not so much at the shamefulness of its peers during the Nazi era as at the censure under which they had come: "The implication that the Reich court's decision was prompted by political considerations and the desire to be of service to the rulers of the time is distasteful. The fact is that the Reich court's actions were aboveboard and that it in fact greatly embarrassed the leaders of the time."

Only the latter is true. The Hitler press fumed because the four innocent Communists could not be beheaded.

The murderous miscarriage of justice against Marinus van der Lubbe remains a huge blot on the in any event far from immaculate German judiciary in the transition period from the Weimar Republic to the Hitler regime.

Unlike the first post-war court case reviewing the Reichstag fire and van der Lubbe's role, the latest case has clearly highlighted this miscarriage of justice.

But the struggle to restore the honour of the man who was beheaded 47 years ago continues. The prosecution has appealed against the acquitted. It holds that the reason given for it are inadequate — more so than in 1933?

Hans Schueler

(Die Zeit, 9 January 1981)

Dönitz, architect of submarine war, dies

Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz died on 24 December 1980.

Born in 1891, he became a naval cadet in 1910. His personal history exemplified the attitude of the German officer corps in both the Weimar Republic and the Third Reich.

The motto of the man who was a U-boat captain during World War I was: "It is your duty as a soldier to serve your people; but it is for the people to decide what form of government they want."

Karl Dönitz's career started in earnest under the Nazi regime. A naval captain by then, he became the supreme commander of Germany's new U-boat fleet in 1935. And it was under him that German submarines went from success to success in the first phase of World War II. Yet he lost the Battle of the Atlantic.

More than 32,000 German submariners lost their lives in the course of the admiral's brutal naval war.

Dönitz later succeeded Grand Admiral Raeder who had opposed Hitler's orders. The newly appointed commander-in-chief of the German Navy never tried to resist orders. He remained an uncritical and unswerving follower of Hitler to the last days of the war.

Only three months before war's end he called on young officers to fanatically back the "Führer" and National Socialism. It was not until the collapse of the Third Reich that Dönitz became meritorious in the eyes of history.

He directed and took on responsibility for the repatriation of 2.5 million people fleeing from the East before the advancing Soviet Army.

Thousands of German soldiers were saved from becoming Russian prisoners of war.

His efforts to obtain honourable terms for a capitulation were unavailing. He toyed with the idea of a truce with the Western powers to enable him to continue with the war against Russia.

Karl Dönitz succeeded in arranging a partial capitulation with Field Marshal Montgomery; but the same attempt with General Eisenhower failed.

Dönitz authorised German generals to sign unconditional capitulations on all fronts.

For 23 days, he was the successor of Hitler as president of the Reich and handled government affairs of the by then wholly occupied country.

British troops arrested him on 23 May 1945. He was put on trial in Nuremberg and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment, having been found guilty on two of the four charges against him: crimes against peace and crimes against the law of war.

Together with other Nazi leaders, he was an inmate of Berlin's Spandau prison until 1 October 1956. After his release the former grand admiral and his wife moved to a Hamburg suburb.

He wrote two autobiographical works in which he recounts and attempts to justify his actions. But the books contain no insights.

The conservative German Navy Association made him an honorary member. But his contacts with the present Navy were extremely sparse.

Karl Dönitz, an apolitical soldier, was unable to grasp the criminal dimension of the Third Reich to the very end.

Bernd C. Hesslein

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 4 January 1981)

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services in honour of World Peace Day (1 January) and individual donations.

An old lady from Hamburg, for instance, remitted to Freiburg the compensation she had been awarded after an accident.

A Hesse factory-owner underwent hospital surgery at the hands of the rota doctor rather than the chief surgeon and remitted the difference between their fees to the Freiburg charity.

It was able to use the money to help an ageing priest in Fr Kolbe's order. "We tired old folk can smile again," the retired clergyman wrote in gratitude.

The foundation that "heals so many wounds," as a 77-year-old who was badly maltreated by concentration camp staff at Mauthausen and Auschwitz put it, does not see itself primarily as a kind of pay office.

Alfons Erb, who runs day-to-day business, would like to feel the foundation provides intellectual and moral assistance to people like Hanna S., 78, in Lublin, an Auschwitz survivor.

The old lady still occasionally has nightmares and wakes up thinking the Germans are coming. She has visions of the instruments of torture used by the Gestapo while interrogating suspects.

Harald Biskup

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 31 December 1980)

■ THE ECONOMY

Growing feeling that the carefree days are gone



Gone are the days when the new year started with predictions of economic success.

The forecasts of the economic research institutes are now marked by uncertainty rather than promise. Growth prospects dwindled in the last months of 1980. If anything, the GNP this year will be lower than last year, and initial hopes that things might take a better course as the year progresses have been dashed.

Even politicians, usually dyed-in-the-wool optimists, now look at the future with concern.

The Chancellor's depressed mood in his government policy statement is also hardly due to a change in his personality.

As a trained economist Helmut Schmidt is well aware of the difficulties which the Federal Republic of Germany, along with other nations, will have to overcome.

"Nothing will be as it used to be," Schmidt said some time ago. It almost sounded like the theme for 1981.

But not only economists see the problems that lie ahead ... the general public is also becoming aware of what is in store. Although the buying-spree at Christmas was pretty much as usual, *there is a mood of foreboding.*

The Allensbach Opinion Research Institute has established that only twice in the past 30 years was there as little hope among the people as now.

It seems obvious that the public senses that the era of constant growth, social achievements and rising incomes in real terms with ever shorter working hours must come to an end.

This is seen as particularly depressing for a nation used to the good post-war years.

Rising from the rubble and misery in the wake of the war, Germany developed into a leading economic power in such a short time that it was rightly considered a "miracle".

The pupil became the task and school master of the others. Politicians of all parties believed in the past decade that the gushing well of economic strength would never dry up.

But the greater the success the more dangerous the pitfalls. Their own delusions were presented to the people like a mirage — especially in election campaigns.

The trade unions believed that they could go on demanding ever higher wages for ever. Businessmen were smug in their belief that they lived in an era in which the risks of business would be cushioned by the state.

These years of illusion could not have lasted very much longer anyway. In view of the tough competition in our day and age, no economy can afford to rest on its laurels. It must be dynamic and competitive to survive, and the energy crisis put an abrupt end to the golden post-war days. It is as if a door had been slammed, leaving us out in the cold.

Industrialist Otto Esser recently compared the situation now with the immedaite post-war era. Of course, such comparisons seem absurd at first glance, considering today's affluence and the misery that prevailed then. But are we not really on the threshold of an era full of unpredictability and uncertainty? In fact, are we not worse off than we were 30 years ago?

At that time we had just left behind the war and the frightful years of repression, and things could only get better.

Reconstruction was tackled with vigour and the indomitable wish to make the best possible use of our regained freedom. Things started getting better at an incredible speed.

Today, we suffer from the lassitude of affluence. Too often have politicians encouraged us to work less and demand more. Socialists went to such extremes as to pervert the concept of a social state. They tested our free economy to the point of collapse and burdened the state with obligations that can barely be honoured.

Now we are faced with uncertainty as to how things are to continue — a uncertainty that is in any event at its worst when one era replaces another.

The future is full of incalculable dangers. Will there be another economic crisis and how secure are our jobs?

Risk that pessimism will spread

Fear, despondency and pessimism are likely to spread in such an atmosphere. Everybody wants to hold onto what he has achieved. Organised groups defend their own possessions and achievements and demand sacrifices from others — sacrifices they themselves are not prepared to make. It is much easier to rise together and distribute the growth cake than it is to tighten the national belt.

The most pressing economic problems this year have been discussed often enough: we must cope with the energy crisis, we must put our balance of payments on a sound footing, we must step up exports and competitiveness on foreign markets, we must put our budget in order, become more innovative and give a new direction to our business community.

Economic prospects 1981
Rise in percent against the previous year
(From the report of the Council of Economic Advisers)
Growth
1978 79 80 1981
3,6 4,5 2 0,5
Prices
1978 79 80 1981
2,7 4,1 5,4 Just under 4
Incomes of the employed
1978 79 80 1981
6,7 7,3 7,5 4
Gross
Profits
1978 79 80
10,3 10,3 6
Unemployment
1978 79 80 1981
0,99 0,88 0,89 1,1
In millions

Military spending must be increased due to the international situation, as must our aid to the developing world.

If all this is to be achieved we shall have to make sacrifices and, above all, we shall again need some of the pioneer spirit that marked 1945.

There is no use in becoming despondent amid affluence. Pessimism breeds hopelessness; and where there is no hope for the future life becomes meaningless, as the theologian Professor Walter Kasper puts it.

All the difficult tasks that are still obscured by the veil of the future can only be tackled successfully if our economy charts a sustained growth course. What matters now is not to demand something new but to use what we have achieved wisely in completing the most important tasks of the future.

This presupposes that all groups — and above all the parties to collective bargaining — are prepared to cooperate. Those who now seek a confrontation to achieve advantages at the expense of others are out of step with the times.

There is yet another thing that we must realise if we are to cope with the challenge ahead: only a free economy with its unique ability to channel goods that are in short supply to the right places can mobilise our full potential in times of crisis. This is what matters most at the moment.

Market economy was indispensable for the grand economic development after 1948, and it remains so in our deteriorating times. Without this, all efforts will be in vain.

Ernst Günter Vetter

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 2 January 1980)

Banks decide to cut foreign credit

German banks say that they will "voluntarily" discontinue credits to foreign borrowers — a questionable ... in an economically and politically ...ous situation.

It was all done inconspicuously and intended as a short-term measure. On the surface, the move is quite legitimate, and so it is not surprising that there have been virtually no protests.

Until the coming spring German banks will abstain from giving long-term credits to foreign borrowers although — due to the *ridiculously* high interest rates in the United States — this would earn them more money than at home.

They have thus shown that they realise that, in view of our severe balance of payments deficit, this country can ill afford to transfer more capital abroad than comes in.

The banks have volunteered to do this knowing that the Bonn government would otherwise have had to use its big stick in the form of regulations.

Still, the vaunted "market economy spirit" — which has served this country well for three decades — has been violated.

Of course, it could have come worse. The government could, for instance, have imposed currency restrictions on German vacationers. At least there has been some talk of such a move.

But even a restriction of the free flow of capital has its pitfalls inasmuch as it could lead to further controls. So the question is: was this latest move really necessary?

It was not. In fact, the decision is at best, only plausible. Our enormously increased oil bill forces us to pay more money to foreign countries than we receive from them. The difference in 1980 amounted to about DM28bn.

There are three ways of paying this bill: we can borrow the money from foreign lenders who would be quite happy to invest in Germany, which is what we did in 1979; or we could use the Bundesbank's foreign exchange reserves as we did in 1980 because investors preferred to take their money to the United States.

The third possibility is considered particularly distasteful, but one can still visualise it: we neither borrow the money for the oil bill nor do we dip into our

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...PPING

Yards face crisis as trade lull goes on

...man shipyards face a crisis as the ...rld-wide ship-building recession ...ues.

...its are down and the volume of ... is unlikely to be enough to main...ll employment this year.

...was thought that, globally, supply ...demand would balance out this year, ...iminished world trade has delayed ...

...volume of trading goods trans...d by sea rose by barely two per ...in 1980 and is likely to stagnate in ...

...view of the economic and political ...ertainties, many shipbuilders have ...poned investments.

...ill, the tonnage of newly built ships ... not drop as heavily in 1979 and ... as the pundits had assumed it ...uld.

...According to preliminary estimates, ...tal new construction in 1980 was ...about 14 million GRT.

What makes matters so difficult for ...man yards are the shifts that have taken place in the various sectors of shipbuilding.

The demand for bulk carriers and for medium-sized tankers for the South East Asia and Scandinavia runs has improved. But the demand for special purpose vessels lags behind expectations.

Unfortunately, it is on this sector that German yards have concentrated.

The volume of orders in 1980 dropped from DM3bn to DM2–DM2.5bn.

Existing orders are not enough to fully use the already reduced production capacities in 1981 and 1982.

The ships delivered in 1980 (400,000 GRT) amounted to DM2bn which was considerably less than the previous year's figures.

Of the 51 million ship-building man hours in 1980, less than half were devoted to the construction of merchant vessels.

A ray of hope for German yards lies in the development of exchange rates. By the end of 1980 the yen no longer offered more advantages to buyers than the deutschemark.

The Japanese used their foreign exchange rate based competitiveness that existed until the middle of 1980 to consolidate their leading position on the world market.

In terms of tonnage, 73 per cent of all OECD orders went to Japan.

Whether or not German yards can weather the crisis in 1981 will depend on Japanese attitudes regarding the planning of their capacities and the general development of world prices.

Although the Japanese said that they would not operate to full yard capacities in 1980 and 1981 in order to restore a balanced market, it is unlikely that this will materialise. Although they undertook to build only 4.8 million tons in 1980, the true figure for that year is likely to be 5.5 million tons.

With the demand slowly rising European shipbuilders hope to start building again in those small shipyards that discontinued production during the crisis.

J. Brech

(Die Welt, 31 December 1980)

Continued from page 6

...erves — we take it out of our citizens' ...kets.

This would mean no longer supporting the deutschemark and discontinuing ... channeling of the flow of capital. ... deutschemark would depreciate ...what more quickly than now — ...ps even against the currencies of European neighbours who are part ...the European Monetary System.

If this happened our imports would ...me more expensive and we would ...ecessity have to consume less. It is ...sible that the trade unions would try ...offset such price increases by demanding higher wages.

If they succeeded — which is unlikely — this would lead to the vicious circle ...ever-growing inflation rates and ...e higher wage demands and pro...ive depreciation of the deutschemark.

The Bundesbank is afraid that this ...ht happen — and rightly so because ... hard to convince people and organi...s of the necessity of a reduced in... in real terms. The public has be... so used to rising incomes that it takes this to be a law of nature.

...t developments could also take ...ther course: we could all realise that ... transfer of incomes in real terms to ... Opec countries is irreversible, and ...could opt to swallow the bitter pill ...quickly as possible.

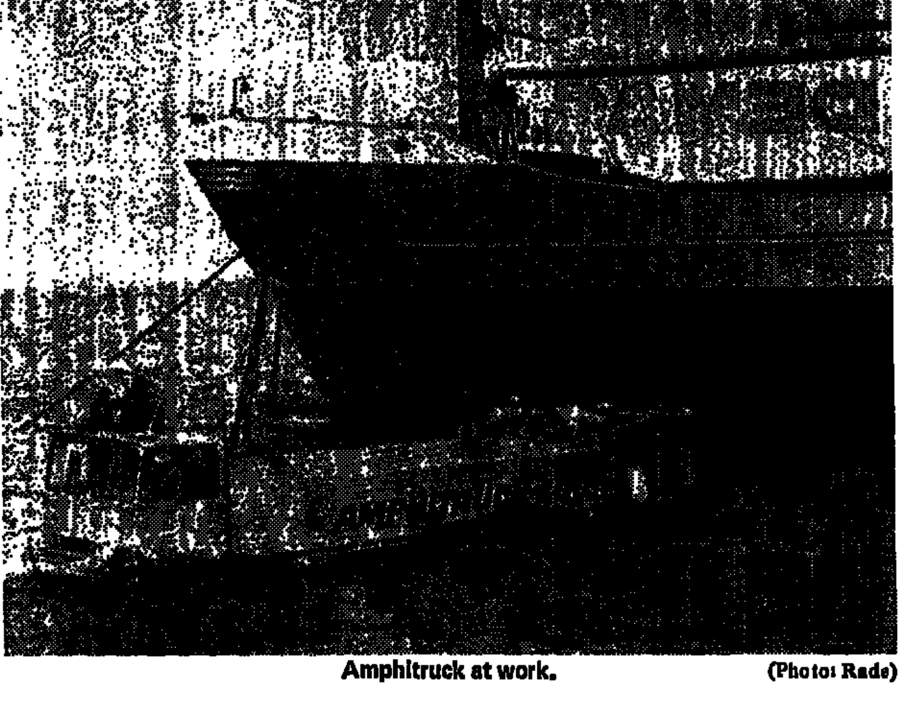
This would mean that — with un...edented modesty — we would hen...th try to regain our 1980 affluence ...saving energy, stepping up exports ...cutting down on consumption, sus...ing this until 1985.

The prospects of such a regained af...ence are not bad because the German ...nomy is still in many ways ahead of ... in the neighbouring countries.

...unted, it will be hard to convince ...public of this. But at some point it ...have to come to grips with the facts ...e. Until this happens we are trying ...bridge the gap by regulating the flow ...pital and other delaying tactics. But ...s a waste of time.

Dieter Piel

(Die Zeit, 2 January 1981)



Amphitruck at work. (Photo: Rade)

Amphibian vehicle 'substitute for port facilities'

A German company has developed an amphibian vehicle which can load and unload ships where there are no port facilities.

The Amphitruck AT 400 is basiscally a combination of ship and truck. It was designed by Buckau R. Wolf AG, a Krupp subsidiary, in cooperation with Carl Kaelble GmbH, as part of a system.

According to Buckau's chairman, Friedrich Jochum, the system is for:

- Ports that are too small for cargo volume
- Coastal areas where harbour facilities would be too expensive
- Temporary loading where, for example, a factory is being built by a coast
- Transport of agricultural produce where there is no port
- Trade between island groups
- Rescue and supply during floods

Herr Jochum also sees a use in the river areas of Latin America, Asia and Africa.

Herr Jochum stresses the use of the vehicle as part of development aid — an aspect that lends the Amphitruck particular weight. All the uses of the vehicle mentioned by Herr Jochum apply particularly to developing countries.

It was recently demonstrated in Kiel: monster truck approached the shore and rolled into the sea, instantly becoming a mini freighter headed for a cargo vessel lying in the roads. Once alongside, it was loaded with a container and shoved off to head back to shore. The huge wheels that were retracted on first entering the water now bit into the sand. The whole operation can, of course, be repeated until the last container reaches its shore destination.

Amphitruck is, of course, totally useless for a place like Kiel with all its sophisticated loading and unloading equipment. But the new system is to be used where the existing facilities are unequal to the task.

It is also to be used in coastal areas where the volume of trade does not warrant the expense of building port facilities or where the topography is such as to make this disproportionately expensive.

In such instances, a fleet of AT 400s could provide a mobile port.

Some 50 of these vehicles would do, and at a cost of DM800,000 per unit a complete port would cost about DM40m — a fraction of the cost of normal facilities.

The new system obviates the use of lighters and of loading the cargo onto vehicles for transport inland since the AT 400 fulfills both functions and can take the cargo straight to the ultimate consignee.

Herr Jochum demonstrated the advantages of the system, using the port of Mombasa, Kenya, as an example. In 1979, it cost about DM170 to process a ton of freight. The same amount of freight can be landed from a ship anchored two kilometres offshore at a cost of DM7.50 per ton under the worst of conditions.

The new system operates economically for up to six kilometres of waterborne and 60 kilometres of landborne transport.

Cargo space is 6.3m long, 2.5m wide and 2.6m high. This means that while on the road and loaded with a container the truck will need a clearance of no more than 4 m.

The vehicle's waterborne stability is good enough to cope with anything up to a force 3 wind (waves of about 1m).

Ingrid Rade

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 27 December 1980)

Huge livestock vessel was once a tanker

The world's largest livestock vessel is receiving its finishing touches in the German shipyard of Jos. L. Meyer (Papenburg).

The vessel, which has a capacity of 125,000 live sheep, was formerly the 81,000 ton tanker *Erviken*.

It will sail on the Kuwait-Australia run for its owners, the Livestock Transport and Trading Co (Kuwait) under the new name, *Al Shuwaikh*.

The original ship had a beam of 31.7 metres and a length of 249 metres. Meyer shortened it to 195 metres in a DM20m operation.

The main part of the job was the 14-tier deckhouse to house the sheep. The pens, which will hold 130 animals each, are 4.5 metres by 9 metres.

To make living conditions tolerable for the crew of 90 (half of whom will be shepherds) the air conditioning has been designed for a complete air exchange 20 times an hour.

The food and freshwater supply for the animals will be fully automated. The ship will carry a desalination plant producing 150 tons of fresh water a day. Two of the original tanks will be converted to hold 4,000 tons of fodder.

A company spokesman says: "It is obvious that some of the animals will get seasick. When this happens they will refuse to eat and eventually die. The cadavers will be jettisoned in the Strait of Hormuz. The anticipated death ratio is 2 per cent or 2,500 animals. If the ratio turns out to be better the crew will receive a bonus."

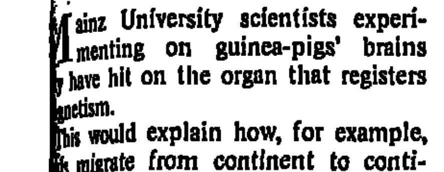
The export of Australian sheep to the Gulf states has been a profitable business for the sheep farmers for years. Some 5 million animals a year are now being transported to Kuwait, Oman and Saudi Arabia. Among the vessels involved is a former passenger ship.

(Handelsblatt, 2 January 1981)



RESEARCH

Magnetic field tests may reveal secrets of bird migration



Mainz University scientists experimenting on guinea-pigs' brains have hit on the organ that registers netism.

This would explain how, for example, s migrate from continent to conti-.

The earth is a planet rich in hydrogen carbon, enveloped in an atmosphere largely shielded from extra-terrestrial liation.

It has a moderate climate, a 24-hour and all manner of properties that combined to make their mark on at we call terrestrial life.

Collectively they are the conditions which life as we know it depends.

The magnetic field is a feature characristic of the earth, surrounding and meating the globe. Life must, one is und to assume, have adapted to it in e course of evolution.

Life may indeed have grown depend on the earth's magnetic field, alough this is an assumption that would t have met with much scientific aproval as recently as 20 years ago.

In those days terrestrial magnetism s generally held to be much too weak exert influence on animal behaviour.

It has since been shown, however, some species of insects, birds and tiles use the field lines of terrestrial gnetism as guides.

ds as they migrate thousands of s from one continent to another are se in point. Experiments with artifi magnetic fields show they have an er compass they use to fly by.

Recent British experiments have even licated that man's sense of direction y be partially governed by the earth's gnetic field.

Where, then, is this magnetic compass which so many living creatures rely? is an organ shared by widely differing tegories of creature ranging from terites to pigeons and salamanders.

Thus the organ that registers magnet must have developed at a very early e in the evolution of species. It must somewhere in the mammal brain, alt maybe in no more than rudimentary hion.

At least part of this compass system evidently been unearthed, more by incidence than by design, as a by-product of research at the anatomy department of Mainz University backed by the lkswagen Foundation.

Zoologist Peter Semm, medical student Thomas Schneider and anatomist tz Vollrath have been studying the ectrical activity of cells in the *corpus neale*, a part of the brain dating far ck into the history of evolution.

It is an interesting section of the cerum for a number of reasons, one ing to do with its output of pineal lalonin, a substance that can make a son feel sleepy.

In cases of endogenous depression it secreted in an abnormal rhythm which n be taken as a pointer to this particur complaint.

In rodents the *corpus pineale* also gorns fluctuations in, say, body temperare or hormone secretions in relation to e circadian rhythm, that is, the time the day or time of the year.

The salamander, for instance, uses this ht-sensitive section of the brain (it also registers lengths of time) as a kind of third eye.

Dr Semm, Herr Schneider and Professor Vollrath, head of the department, concentrated on the *corpus pineale* of guinea-pigs.

Its cells communicate in the language of the brain, short electric signals known as action potentials by which, for instance, nerve cells exchange information *processed in the brain.*

The three scientists probed these electric signals with the aid of tiny pipettes outside the cells and discovered that the potentials they measured might be influ*enced by a magnetic field the strength* of which corresponded to that of the earth.

They then studied this aspect in greater detail, publishing their findings in the 11 December 1980 issue of the British scientific journal *Nature.*

The laboratory animals, 16 male guinea-pigs, were given anaesthetics and their respiration and body temperature were artificially maintained while their brains were laid bare for readings to be taken.

Twin coils were charged, one attached to the rodents' jawbones, the other to their heads, thereby establishing an almost homogeneous magnetic field, the polarity and strength of which could be varied by changing the direction and strength of the electric current.

Electrical activity of the pineal cells was clearly shown to increase when magnetism was polarised in the vertical direction of the earth's magnetic field.

When this artificial magnetic field was run counter to the earth's, electrical activity *declined. What was more, adja*cent parts of the brain showed no change in either case.

The guinea-pig's *corpus pineale* would thus appear to be a clearly demarcated *area that has been shown to respond* to magnetism in such a weak field as the earth's.

But the reaction is somewhat sluggish, which makes one wonder whether guinea-pigs perhaps make no use of this compass in their brains, merely still having it as a vestige of an earlier stage of development.

It has certainly yet to be demonstrated that guinea-pigs in any way run their lives by the earth's magnetic field, registering its fluctuations as part of the circadian rhythm in a manner similar to that by which we register and make use of light and dark.

The Mainz scientists are now probing the electrical activity of the pineal brain cells of pigeons, and it looks as though their cells are very quick and specific in their *response to changes in magnetic* field.

This would appear to indicate that the scientists are hot on the heels of the cerebral compass.

Experiments have shown that when terrestrial magnetism is disturbed (by attaching tiny magnets to their heads, for instance) they find it difficult, not to say impossible, to find their way back to their own lofts.

The Mainz scientists may, of course, have discovered only part of the body's compass, but the discovery of a magnetic sensor in the *corpus pineale* is nonetheless of tremendous scientific importance.

It would prove, if further substantiated, that this part of the brain is a centre of orientation in space and time.

Thomas von Randow
(Die Zeit, 2 January 1981)

Cold facts about cryogenics

Cryogenics, or low-temperature engineering, seems sure to play an increasingly important part in meeting energy requirements.

This will not be due solely to the growing number of heat pumps used for heating water and homes (heat pumps are a by-product of research at temperatures a fraction above absolute zero).

Cryogenics also has a part to play in coal refinement (liquefaction and gasification) and the development of atomic energy up to and including nuclear fusion.

This is the considered opinion of Professor Steimle, president of the German Cryogenics and Air Conditioning Association, which recently conferred in West Berlin.

At first glance it is surprising to be assured that cryogenics may help to bring about substantial energy savings, given that energy is mainly used as heat.

Yet take the use of heat pumps to heat water and buildings. They are based on the fact that certain chemicals, cryo*gens*, evaporate at lower temperatures under low pressure, thereby absorbing heat from their surroundings.

Under higher pressure this steam condenses, releasing the heat it has absorbed. Heat pumps, known as compressors, form part of every refrigerator and deep freeze.

As heat is extracted from inside the refrigerator or freezer, it is released into the surrounding air. Outside energy is required for the most part merely to operate the compressor.

Last year roughly 11,000 heat pumps were manufactured in the Federal Republic of Germany. About 8,000 of them were installed in West German homes.

They were all electric. Gas or diesel heat pumps are making very slow headway, sad to say. They would make much better use of primary energy.

They could recycle process heat — exhaust gas — whereas electric power generated at a power station is none too *satisfactory in this respect.*

Power station process heat is for the most part pumped into nearby rivers or the surrounding air.

About 90 gas-fired heat pumps are currently either in use or being installed in the Federal Republic. But gas or diesel heat pumps are problematic.

Engine maintenance and life-span and exhaust fumes are the chief difficulties. Heat pumps powered by gas or diesel engines will continue to be out of the question for detached or semi-detached private homes, so experts say.

This may not be the case in large old houses where insulation cannot hope to be as efficient as in newly-built homes.

According to a Batelle Institute survey quoted at the conference the market for heat pumps powered by combustion engines will be substantial nonetheless.

This is because new housing will stagnate, whereas modernisation of old stock will steadily increase, with the emphasis on replacement of old heating installations.

Another sector in which cryogenics has a major role to play will be in pruning energy requirements for deep-freezing food. A well-informed speaker on this topic was Professor Spiess of the Federal Food Research Institute.

A number of experts, he said, had lately claimed that heat sterilisation or drying of foodstuffs was less wasteful than deep-freezing in terms of energy consumption.

Yet freezing could well be competitive if only the food were stored at length in storerooms and as shortly as possible in retailers' freezers, which used more energy.

Better insulation and shorter storage periods could also cut the energy consumption of home freezers.

Professor Spiess also mentioned efforts by storage freezer companies to persuade food manufacturers to move in alongside them.

A food factory next door to a storage freezer operator could use freezer process heat for manufacturing and heating purposes.

There are also a number of projects in which office complexes housed in supermarkets are to be heated with the aid of process heat from freezers.

For this purpose, however, the freezer equipment will need to be modified.

Bids, especially by industry, to have the statutory maximum temperature for deep freeze equipment raised from −18°C to −15° C reportedly stand no chance.

They would cut energy consumption by up to six per cent. Provided storage periods were cut and food was stored and serviced properly, −15°C would do foodstuffs no harm, Professor Spiess said.

But market research in and around Karlsruhe had shown that a number of products spend a very long time in cold storage, while in many retail outlets neither satisfactory turnover nor proper care could be ensured.

Cryogenics plays an important in coal refinement, on which much research and development is currently being conducted in Germany.

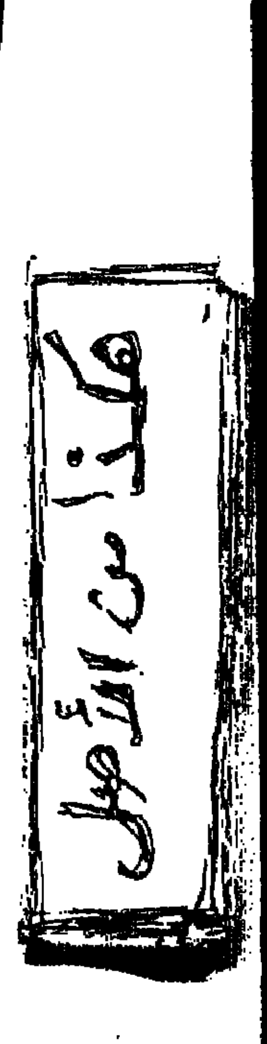
Temperatures lower than −*100°C* are used to separate undesirable components in the process of refinement. Gas separators are based on the fact that components liquefy at different temperatures.

At between −160°C and −170°C all ingredients except hydrogen are separated from the gas mixture, while cryogenics is also needed to supply oxygen *for coal gasification* in a suitable form.

There was nothing new in any of these processes, Herr Streich, a physicist, told the conference. But they required further development to meet new requirements.

They had, for instance, to ensure minimum energy consumption while withstanding pressure of up to 300 bars.

Marion Kern
(Der Tagesspiegel, 3 January 1981)



FILMS

The 'cannibal industry' of the art world

Mahler? Didn't he compose the music for the film version of *Death in Venice?* Döblin? Doesn't he have something to do with Fassbinder's *Berlin Alexanderplatz?*

Queries such as these are the inevitable comeback from cinemagoers or armchair viewers when the film industry or TV cannibalise other art forms.

What the vampire media offer in return may well be regarded as a virtual insult. For a while popular themes from Mahler symphonies sold like hot cakes in record shops. Original recordings gathered dust on the shelves.

Alfred Döblin's novel about working class life in Berlin of the 20s, first published in 1925, now boasts a banal latter-day still cover photo from the Munich Bavaria Studio's screen version in the hope of selling well as the book of the film.

Fassbinder, the director, has been featured on the covers of almost all illustrated magazines. Franz Biberkopf, the main character of the novel and male lead of the film, is passed from hand to hand as some kind of strange and not yet entirely domesticated animal.

Yet Döblin, the author, is still an unknown quantity, virtually unheard of by the general public. This discrepancy merely gives added dimension to a state of affairs that remains unchanged: for the reading public Döblin is still a spot *marked white on the map.*

Fassbinder can hardly be blamed. For years he has plied the public with a succession of films, demonstrating beyond reasonable doubt that he has more than enough plots of his own to use, that he can write deialogues which keep *cinéasles* glued to their seats and that he has no need of novels on which to rely for material.

In his serialised TV version of *Berlin Alexanderplatz* he has merely responded (in a decidedly anarchic manner, as viewers will recall) to the wishful thinking, not to say wet dreams, of TV programme planners.

The men who commissioned the series seem to feel they can accrete an aura of culture by having acknowledged artistic accomplishments retraced on the TV screen.

With viewer *percentages at the back* of their minds they pore over lists of books deemed bestsellers, either currently or, putatively, at some time in the past.

Filmmakers, dependent as they are on TV to make ends meet, doff their caps to the limited imagination of broadcasting executives.

If you want to make a film in Germany you would be well advised not to convey the impression that you have ideas of your own. You must adapt literary standbys for the TV screen.

All too often filmmaking is only another word for cannibalism with a view to being rated *besonders wertvoll,* or particularly well worth seeing, and proving a box office success.

Never has this fact of film life been so patently obvious as at present. How times have changed since the motion picture industry headed for its heyday between the wars!

Pioneers of the silent screen swiftly developed a language of their own, universally valid and very much to the point. It made do without words yet admirably conveyed its message of comedy and imagination in an altogether unliterary manner.

Wordsmiths were green with envy, hailing enthusiastically the new medium with its immediate mass appeal.

As long as films were silent the screen remained *proud of its artistic independence.* In comedy and drama it had no shortage of eloquent scenes and gestures.

With their aid the cinema screen has provided the collective imagination of the 20th century with more images of *lasting, mythical quality than all* the other established arts together.

Only with the arrival of the soundtrack did the motion picture relinquish its freedom and artistic independence. The obligation to produce talking pictures led straight to slavery.

Filmmakers began to look over the shoulders of novelists and playwrights and to sue for terms with agents of the spoken and written word.

Before long a number of for the most part musical compromises were found, but the varieties of *film that emerged* could hardly deny their roots in literature or the stage.

Even so, the cinema thereby retained a degree of independence, which is more than can be said for the present, especially in Germany, where of the various categories of *talkie* only the *Heimatfilm,* or lowbrow period piece or regional film, really made the grade.

Nowadays all categories of motion picture have forfeited their erstwhile universal hold over the cinemagoing public. Yet the show must go on, and TV demands its daily tribute.

Thinking up stories is hard work, so they are pilfered from literature instead, which has no option but to invent them.

Günter Lamprecht (as Franz Biberkopf) over Barbara Valentin (as Ida) while Brigitte Mira (Frau Bast) looks on in horror. From 'Berlin Alexanderplatz'.

People who feel called on to make films as a career make a beeline for the nearest bookseller to see what ideas others have had about the world we live in.

The results are superfluous productions that no-one really wants and definitely no-one needs. Their only beneficiaries are those who make them; at the cinema or on the TV screen they merely help to pass the time of day.

The least *truthful justification* advanced for this state of affairs is the assertion that film adaptations of works of literature are intended to educate the general public.

It is simply not true to say that books are made more palatable by making a meal out of their plots. Quite the reverse. After 13 TV episodes *Berlin Alexanderplatz* may have found its way into a good many Christmas stockings but is most unlikely to have been read.

Döblin's major prose epic can for *many viewers only rank as an inaccurate* narration of the tale as told on the TV screen.

Televised adaptations of most novels seldom amount to more than poor picture editing. A work of linguistic art is reduced to what is often a bare-boned storyline.

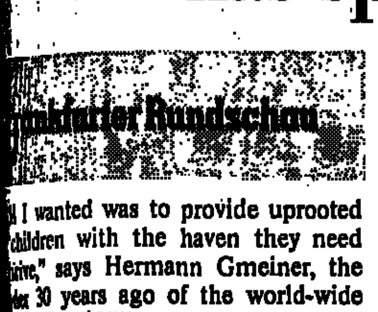
This skeleton is then given artificial respiration in the form of screenplay dialogues and acted out in front of studio backdrops.

It is as though the bones were pulled *out of a fish dinner and sucked* but the fillet were scraped into the trash can.

There are so many ways in which a book can be experienced. Each and every reader works out his own version of the course of events, based on how his imagination responds to the tale told.

The film of the book can but be a flat, impersonal rendering of interchangeable images that rule out further experience and prevent a personal encounter with the narrative.

As you read a book you gradually evolve a picture of what goes on; it slowly emerges from linguistic components. In the film version the picture is already there and can no longer be reworked. Reading is a creative activity, a job of intellectual work. A film obviates the need to go to the trouble. It spoils the recipient and encourages him not to bother thinking. One naturally grows accustomed to this convenient service, thus every hour spent in front of the TV screen is a private lesson in dyslexia. The ability and desire to cover literary groundwork on one's own are gradually forfeited. Images begin to displace words, as is the case in other spheres of life. In the popular Press, for instance, information conveyed in picture form has largely taken the place formerly occupied by written or verbal information. As long as the visual media deal with *the reality of* the world we live in or



Fassbinder on location ... more enough plots.

(Photos: West Deutschland ...)

limit themselves to their enterta... role no-one can object to them.

They only assume nuisance p... tions once they try to take the pl... literature. Indeed, they make ... themselves when, for instance, th... in TV arts programmes to sell boo... screening their jackets.

There is no such thing as a brid... tween a literary work of art and co... on the cinema or TV screen.

A handful of successful adapt... or maybe it would be better to ... terms of rediscoveries *of literary* ... rial, may have *found their way on* ... cinema screen, but they are mer... ceptions that *prove the rule.*

Adapting a work of literature fo... screen is bunk. Anyone who ha... such aspirations has learnt no... about either. He has neither le... read in any true sense of the ter... remembered what it is to see o... ceive.

The abundance of pictures arou... has unfortunately failed to enric... imaginations; it has merely tend... make us turn a blind eye and a de... to everything that is going on.

In comparison with the day o... silent movie the images that oc... today's filmmakers are somewhat p... try-stricken. But undue exertion i... longer required of directors and c... men.

Armchair viewers glued to th... screen have grown visually unde... ing. They are no longer able to co... trate on a picture and experience ... an event.

A radio play does more to sti... the listener's imagination than ... film. The present-day public are ... expected to extract synoptic inform... from the TV screen.

Fleeting visual information ... what ideas a filmmaker has had ab... book he has read must not be al... to displace books, let alone re... them.

Literature will not stand a fair c... of regaining the attention of the ... viewing public until programme ... tives have set aside their ambitio... purvey books via the TV screen.

As for the visual media, they ... be taken seriously as art forms ... they hve regained a language of ... own, stimulating the imagination ... means of images and no longer re... on the public library to provide ... material. *Gottfried K...*

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 29 Decembe...)

CHILDREN

Village movement for the deprived has spread to 65 countries

Frankfurter Rundschau

...l I wanted was to provide uprooted children with the haven they need ...tive," says Hermann Gmeiner, the ...der 30 years ago of the world-wide ...Children's Villages.

...e son of an Austrian farmer, one of ...ge family, had a simple recipe for ...undertaking: "I said to myself, every... that is great in this world can only ...me reality if someone does more ...he has to do.

"If millions of people started to do ...od, goodness throughout the world ...uld blossom."

There can be no denying that his ...mple maxim, buttressed by his let's-...tle-it mentality, came to fruition in a ...st impressive way.

Hermann Gmeiner, once a medical ...dent who wanted to become a pe...trician, is said to have met with little ...derstanding by the authorities for his ...oject.

In 1949 he used the 600 Austrian ...illings he had to start the SOS Chil...en's Village in Imst, Tyrol.

Today, he is the president of the um...lla organisation SOS Children's Vil...es International which, for the past ...years, *has* coordinated the work of ...such villages and projects in 65 ...ntries *on* five continents.

Gmeiner's original plans to become a ...tor failed and his study of philoso... remained uncompleted since at the ...of 30 his own life became synony...us with the history of the children's ...ages.

The initially charitable and pedagogi...ly unprofessional approach eventually ...ned into a professional educational ...cept.

Gmeiner's educational ideas have been ...veloped further by social-pedagogic ...stitutions in Munich and in Innsbruck ...hout abandoning the originally strict ...mework. They provide the ideological ...ndation for the concept through a ...es of publications entitled "Educa... in SOS Children's Villages."

His educational concept must not be ...derstood as instructions that must be ...plemented but as a global pedagogic ... based on the maxim that an aban...ned child can only be helped if ...mebody devotes himself to it entirely ... shares his life with the child. As a ...ult, the SOS Children's Village educa...nal maxim has always been education ...ough living together.

But this principle lays no claim to ...ng original or indeed the only sound ...proach.

Children's villages in which orphans ...w up within a new "family circle" ex...d before the Imst village. They were ...nded by such charity organisations as ...ities which in 1947 opened Pestalozzi ...ildren's Village in Trogen, Switzer...d. The Trogan village provided a ...en and common education for chil...n from all parts of the world.

Although this educational principle ... been criticised on the grounds that ... international atmosphere of the vil...e uprooted some of the children, ...ogen still enjoys an excellent reputa...n.

"The SOS villages owe their existence to my mother", says Gmeiner, pointing to the fact that her early death prepared him for what was to become his life's task.

Among the principles on which the villages are based, motherliness, sibling love, the house and the village as well as the village mother are the most important.

Gmeiner's personal experience and the fact that many women became widowed and had to fend for themselves as a result of the war have moulded his ideas of the village mother. She must be *resolute, mentally balanced, religious and* active to enable her to serve as an example for her "children", only five per cent of whom are genuine orphans in the German villages. The rest are dubbed "social orphans."

"The biggest problem is that something went wrong with our children in the most decisive phase of their lives", says Bernhard von Hüne, 40, a trained social worker and head of Germany's oldest children's village in Diessen.

"Most children", he says, "don't come to us when they are infants but after they have been pushed around. Once they arrive, they for the first time experience dependability and love which ties them to their new 'family' even once they have a family of their own."

Asked how difficult children react to the resolute mother type, Herr von Hüne says that they are not particularly fond of an orderly system, yet they are so insecure that they consider a system in which they know where they stand to be something positive.

Initially, the village mothers had to approach their difficult task equipped only with love and energy; and there was obviously no room for narrow-mindedness.

Now they are trained in a special "mother's school" and when they become probationary mothers for a year they have the counsel of trained psychologists and educationalists. The only thing they don't have is a husband. Incidentally, most of these village mothers begin their work when they are between 23 and 38 years old.

As to their not being married, the employment contract states: "The employment terminates on the day of marriage."

This celibacy stipulation is probably one of the reasons why it is so hard to find new mothers. As a result, mothers who marry may continue to look after their "children" by special arrangement.

One of these mothers is Therese Heimrath, 55, who has raised 16 children in the Diessen village and now even has some "grandchildren." As a result, family celebrations now encompass more than 30 people.

"My father left the upbringing of the children entirely to my mother because a farmer's everyday life was such as to leave no time for this", writes Gmeiner about the distribution of roles in his parental home.

This is probably at the root of his concept of a fatherless upbringing in the SOS villages.

One study states that the normal consequences of a fatherless upbringing do not necessarily apply to the children's villages because the dangers of excessively close ties to the mother are offset by the size of the family.

Paternal authority for the village as a whole rests with the village head. For the children he represents the man who knows the world and the problems of everyday life while the mother's realm is inside the family.

Children's village psychologist Eva Brendel says that the paternal functions are largely replaced by the village principle and that the village is an upbringing factor as a community together with motherliness and sibling love.

The villages try to keep not only genuine siblings together but foster the same sentiments and coeducation among children of different ages — all this in a home that operates as an independent family. The aim is to give the child the feeling that it actually has a home.

Diessen has 15 family houses — not counting the kindergarten house and the "municipal building" — with 70 children aged between 2 and 19.

The number of inhabitants is relatively low because the village is now 24 years old and there are families that no longer live in the village, like that of Therese Heimrath.

Diessen is one of Germany's 12 children's villages. But there are also supplementary institutions such as communal living quarters for young people, vocational training institutions, counselling centres and holiday centres.

The SOS Children's Villages International has an annual revenue of DM60m in Germany alone. The money comes primarily from members, friends and promoters.

The Karstadt department store chain, for instance, donated the money earmarked for its centenary celebration to the children's village in Rio de Janeiro.

But donations can also cause headaches, as is happening right now. Somebody has given the organisation a racehorse which is now stabled at the Munich racecourse and — for the time being anyway — is no asset but a liability. The gift of a Baroque chest and a veteran Mercedes automobile was more welcome since a museum was prepared to buy the items.

Some of the money comes from fines imposed by courts and paysable to the organisation.

The work thus financed has benefited 3,000 people in Germany alone.

Roman Arens

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 2 January 1981)

The realities behind fairy tales

Fairy tales are necessary for the psychological development of children, says Professor Otto Ewert.

Professor Ewert, head of the Development Psychology Department of the Psychology Institute of the Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, says the repeated telling of such tales helps the child rid itself of conflicts and fears of which it is not conscious.

Fairy tales are a training ground of imagination because children frequently fail to recognise the degree of reality in such tales, he says.

Hansel and Gretel, for instance, helps the child to come to grips with unconscious conflicts and, as usual in fairy tales, resolve them in the form of a happy end.

Hansel and Gretel deals with the topical problem of parents who cannot devote as much time to their children as they would like.

The most important thing is that the fairy tale should be told by a person familiar to the child and that it should be repeated if the child asks for it.

On the other hand, it is inadvisable to leave a child alone with a fairy tale record. The child needs the soothing presence of the familiar person *telling* the story.

(Die Welt, 27 December 1980)

Parents urged to limit TV viewing

Bonn Family Affairs Minister Antje Huber has launched a campaign against push button entertainment for children. Her target is parents who find it easiest to get their children our of their hair by letting them watch television.

A ministry brochure entitled "Television and Your Child" provides advice for parents.

Ever since it became known that children of pre-school age spend more than an hour a day glued to the TV educationalists have been certain that there is such a thing as TV-induced disturbances which later cause problems with education.

Parents are usually too late in noticing that their children wake up at night with feelings of fear or that they are frightened in the dark or that their performance at school is deteriorating and that they are unable to concentrate.

They are also frequently unaware that these disorders are due to uncontrolled television viewing.

As a result, Frau Huber's first advice to parents is to control viewing habits. Children should never be left alone in front of the TV screen and the choice of programmes should not be left to them.

Instead, parents and children together should prepare a viewing schedule for the whole week of programmes that they can watch together and discuss later.

Elementary school children grasp only short TV action and are unable to distinguish between fantasy and reality.

Violence on TV becomes frightening reality in the minds of young children. Not until the age of 8 or 9 are children capable of following logically unfolding TV action over a longer period of time and differentiating between the screen and reality.

Excessive viewing as has become customary among adults is nothing for children.

Children between 3 and 6 should not spend more than 30 minutes a day watching TV. For the older ones, an hour should be the maximum.

To prevent the desire for TV from becoming artificially stimulated, Frau Huber recommends that television should be used neither as a reward nor as punishment. *Andreas Freisfeld*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 25 December 1980)

■ MODERN WORLD

The diminishing romance of the river Rhine



Since the early 19th century the Rhine and its landscape, its castles, churches and wine have inspired legions of poets, painters and musicians.

Nikles Vogt, 1756–1835, the historian and collector of lore about the Rhine, wrote in his will that his body was to be buried on Johannisberg in the Rhine province but his brain and heart were to be lowered in a sealed capsule into the river at Rüdesheim.

Such unbounden enthusiasm for the fabled river seems a little exaggerated nowadays, yet the Rhine itself remains as famous as ever.

Not a single wine village between Rüdesheim and Koblenz has remained unsung, while every conceivable picturesque view along this section of the river has been immortalised in paintings and prints.

The Lorelei, the maiden with long golden hair who lures unsuspecting seamen to their deaths from her vantage-point on a rock overlooking the Rhine, was invented by Clemens Brentano, the Romantic poet.

Her story easily heads the list of Rheinish tales that have inspired poets, playwrights and musicians. There have been no fewer than 50 operatic versions of the Lorelei.

Small wonder, perhaps, that the Rhine has been a tourist attraction unrivalled by any other river. It continues to pull in the tourists to this day.

The first volume in the Baedeker series of travel guides, published in 1825, described a holiday along the Rhine. By 1850 150 books about travel along the river had been published.

The completion of Cologne Cathedral in 1880 was, in part, a result of this enthusiasm for the river that is most readily associated with Germany.

It all began in the early years of the 19th century when the river was discovered by the Romantic poets. Friedrich Schlegel, Achim von Arnim and Clemens Brentano toured the Rhine in 1802.

They saw it through Romantic eyes and described it in Romantic terms that were to colour the view of the river shared by generations.

The British were among its earliest foreign admirers. Byron visited the Rhineland in 1816. Turner's first sketches based on Rhenish motifs were made in 1817.

That was the year in which Byron wrote his Childe Harold, an epic poem based on a description of a journey along the Rhine. In 1823/24 it was followed by Heinrich Heine's version of the Lorelei saga.

In a little more than 20 years works had been written and motifs discovered that were to form the mainstay of the Romantic literary and artistic treatment of the river Rhine.

Then came the pale imitators of their creative predecessors, the Rhine wine poets, the penny-a-dozen artists and the collectors and compilers of Rhenish sagas, legends and songs.

It is virtually impossible even to hazard a guess as to the number of works on the Rhine they penned, scored and painted. Their enthusiasm for the Rhine is, perhaps, best illustrated by a Christian Böttcher painting and a quote from *Die Romantik* (The Romantic Era) by Ricarda Huch:

"Night walks on the bank of the rushing river, singing to the sounds of the guitar, cheerful conversation with brethren and friends, the fragrance of vines and the stuff of dreams — that was how, as a result, life on the Rhine was envisaged."

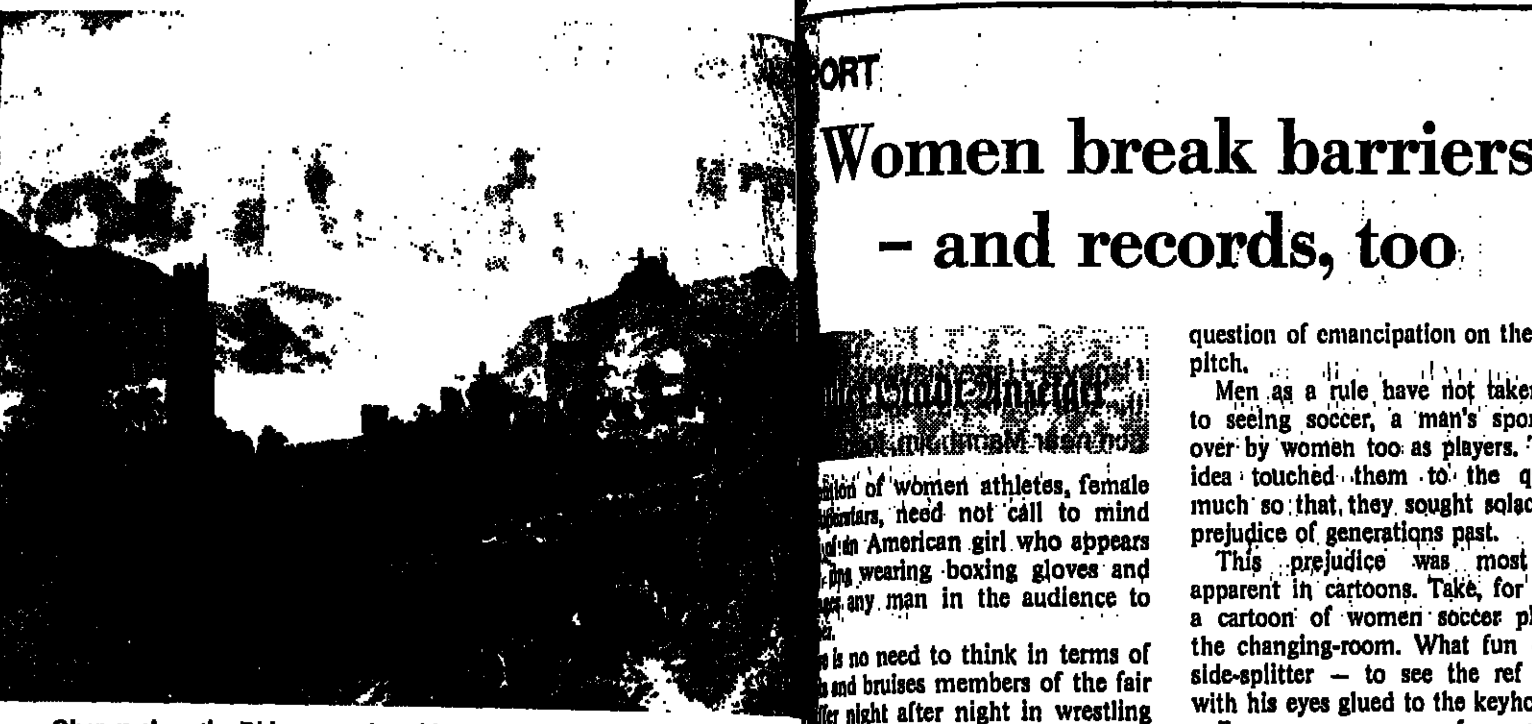
The fame and glory of the river were established once and for all when this poetic mood became a patriotic concern. The call for liberation of the Rhine from the Napoleonic yoke united the Germans during the campaigns of 1813 and 1814.

Blücher's crossing of the Rhine at Kaub with the Silesian army was a much-vaunted event. The patriotic aspect of Rhine Romanticism regularly came to the fore for the next century, being resuscitated for wars and political crises affecting the river until 1914.

The best-known examples of this Rhenish jingoism are Nikolaus Becker's *Rheinlied* and Max Schneckenburger's *Wacht am Rhein*. The former includes the lines:

Sie sollen ihn nicht haben,/ den freien deutschen Rhein,/ ob sie wie gier'ge Raben/ sich heiser danach schrein. (They shall not have it, the free German Rhine, even though they cry themselves hoarse for it like covetous ravens.)

Bismarck reckoned songs such as these were equal in value to entire armies, while Karl Kraus, the Viennese critic, a man with an acute feeling for language, wrote: *Das ist ein sonderbarer Fall: Es braust ein Ruf wie Donnerhall.* (What a strange business it is when a clarion call sounds more like a clap of thunder!)



Oberwesel on the Rhine, as painted by Heinrich Johann Schilbach in 1832. (Photo: Horst-Johannes Tümmers)

Enthusiasm for the Rhine was a matter for the entire German people. Everyone wanted to have seen the Rhine, to have enthused on its banks and felt uplifted by patriotic spirit.

At this very point in time the sudden craze for travel was aided by a mode of transport that enabled both passengers and goods to be shipped fast and in quantity.

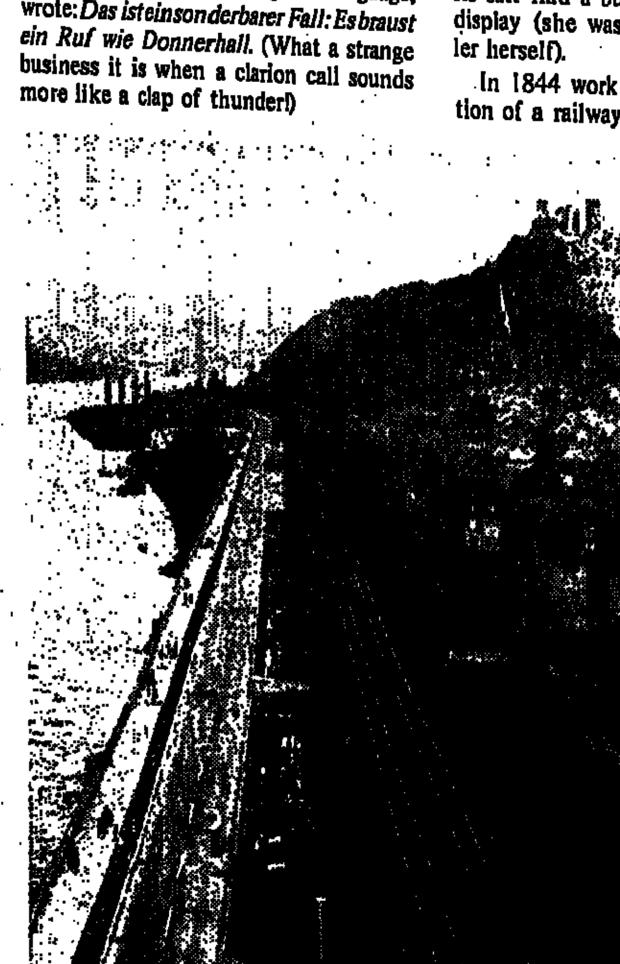
In 1816, the year Byron toured the Rhine, the first steamer sailed along the river. In 1827 regular steamer services were operated between Cologne and Mainz.

In its first year of operations the company carried 18,624 passengers. By 1860 it was serving one million a year.

In 1829 Cologne Chamber of Commerce reported that the unexpected numbers of visitors had boosted the prosperity of Rhenish Prussia.

Half the steamer passengers were British and in those days any hotel worth its salt had a bust of Queen Victoria on display (she was a famous Rhine traveller herself).

In 1844 work started on the construction of a railway line along the left bank of the river. By 1855 the railway line along the right bank was completed, too. Rhine Romanticism and mass tourism joined forces. To this day an endless stream of tourists wends its way along the Rhine valley, crowding five parallel routes. What does the Rhenish landscape look like nowadays after 180 years of being a sales hit? The Rhine was the first instance of a region fully developed for mass tourism, exploited and commercialised. Its valley has also had to bear the brunt of burgeoning towns, cities and industry and threatens to become a gigantic example of ribbon development. Georg Forster, who sailed down the Rhine with Alexander von Humboldt in 1790, said the water was refreshingly [...] Karl Simrock, the Rhenish phil[...] and collector of Rhine sagas, refer[...] 1851 to the clear green waves o[...] Rhine.





Oberwesel as it is more than a century later. (Photo: dpa)

Today's headlines are more lik[...] suggest that if you take a swig of [...] from the river you may well drop [...] dead.

Newspaper reports feature the sa[...] Hoechst, the Frankfurt chemicals [...] pany, allegedly dumping effluent i[...] river daily with the connivance o[...] Hesse authorities.

Or take the 1969 Thiodan catastr[...] the tale of an insecticide that put [...] to the last few fish that survived i[...] murky waters of the river.

To this day no-one knows fo[...] who pumped the *highly* toxic [...] into the Rhine.

The Rhine is no longer a Rom[...] river. It is an open drain, the larg[...] its kind in Europe, with a futu[...] murky as the water that it carries.

For centuries a typical feature o[...] Rhenish landscape was the sun[...] patches of vineyard that clung tenac[...] ly to the side of the valley, labori[...] reclaimed and cultivated.

Nowadays the commercial valu[...] land is rated much more important [...] landscape considerations. Bulldo[...] move in, flatten the slopes and cap[...] entire hills.

In parts the banks of the Rhine [...] mble a concrete-clad canal. Any nu[...] of towns have been cut off from t[...] element, the river, by ribbons of a[...] and permanent way.

Intact riverside landscapes have b[...] sacrificed, with one development lea[...] to another. Concrete road embankm[...] put paid to the pebblebeds that m[...] have served the salmon, if there still [...] any, as breeding grounds.

What is more, holidaymakers by t[...] million are sent round the Rhine[...] year by year. The once-famous lands[...] has been despoiled by the ephe[...] glitter of cheap amusement area[...] cater for them.

The overall impression the Rh[...] conveys is that of a funfair as far as t[...] rists are concerned, even though it [...] long-established fact that tourist [...] once they are fully developed, tend [...] forefeit much of their attraction.

In the Rhineland's case the num[...] of visitors who stay for more tha[...] night or two is steadily declining. V[...] tors who used to come for the [...] and quiet no longer do so. Day trippe[...] and weekenders are now the rule [...]

So it seems absurd to innoc[...]

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SPORT

Women break barriers – and records, too

[...]tion of women athletes, female [...]tators, need not call to mind [...] an American girl who appears [...] wearing boxing gloves and [...] any man in the audience to [...]

[...] is no need to think in terms of [...] and bruises members of the fair [...] night after night in wrestling [...] on Hamburg's Reeperbahn.

[...]ous competitive sport has no shor[...] of instances in which women are [...] on the heels of the men.

[...]men's soccer is an established fact. [...] compete for world champion[...] honours on the judo mat. They, or [...] Janet Guthrie of the United [...] sit at the wheel of Formula 1 [...] prix racing cars.

[...] field and track athletics they feel at [...] even in the marathon. All told [...] miss no opportunity of proving [...] point that sport is not just for su[...]men.

[...] we men had grown so accustomed [...] brandishing a warning index finger [...]ever women sought to challenge [...] right to what we had always consi[...] to be *an exclusively* male sport, [...] *football*.

[...] objected to the occasional [...] of soccer between women's teams [...] joke (and as such it had to be clear[...] understood). But there must be no question of emancipation on the football pitch.

Men as a rule have not taken kindly to seeing soccer, a man's sport, taken over by women too as players. The very idea touched them to the quick, so much so that they sought solace in the prejudice of generations past.

This prejudice was most readily apparent in cartoons. Take, for instance, a cartoon of women soccer players in the changing-room. What fun — a real side-splitter — to see the ref (a man) with his eyes glued to the keyhole!

Even among men, of course, views might differ as to whether jokes such as this are wildly amusing, let alone in good taste, but soccer stars such as Franz Beckenbauer or Gerd Müller where all far from enthusiastic about women's football.

Their invariable reaction was, perhaps, courtesy or why there was any need for the idea: "Alright, I suppose, if they must."

Yet the girls were discouraged neither by puerile jokes nor the scepticism of soccer stars, and nowadays no-one laughs when they take to the field.

Why should one laugh, indeed? On TV a goal netted in a women's match has even been selected as Goal of the Month.

So women are busy catching up with men in the world of sport. Differences in times, distances and standards between the two sexes are steadily being reduced.

Skiing star Rosi Mittermaier, a popular Olympic gold medallist, did not need to put paid to the hoary legend that women are no more than also-rans in top-flight sport.

It had already been prove amply wrong. In nearly all Olympic sports women's performances have improved at a much faster rate than men's.

Johnny Weissmüller, screen Tarzan of the 20s, would probably have been put to shame had he known then how fast girl swimmers were going to cover his Olympic gold medal distances, the 100 and 400 metres crawl.

Today's teenage girls would have shown him a clean pair of heels, completely outclassing the erstwhile ace.



Women's pentathlete Eva Wilms.

Unrivalled in his day, Weissmüller swam the 100 metres freestyle, crawling the distance in 59 seconds to win Olympic gold in Paris in 1924.

Four years later he successfully defended his gold medal in Amsterdam in 58.6 seconds. Barbara Krause of the GDR, who won the women's gold medal for the distance in Moscow last year, did so in 54.79 seconds.

There is no need even to go so far back in the Olympic annals to see how hard on men' heels the women are.

The most incredible Olympic gold medal performance by a member of the fair sex in Moscow was probably that of Petra Schneider, 17, from the GDR.

She swam the 400 metres medley in 4 min.36.29 sec. As recently as in 1968, at Mexico City, the Karl-Marx-Stadt schoolgirl would have finished lengths ahead of the winner of the men's event.

He was, for the record, an American, Charles Hickcox, and a dozen years previously it had taken him 4 min.48.4 sec.

In field and track athletics too the women are fast gaining ground, and doing so as far as the track events are concerned the more clearly the longer the distances involved.

Last year Grete Waitz, a blonde Norwegian, ran a world record 2 hours 37 min. 48 sec. in the Manhattan Marathon. Ten years earlier she would have outrun the men in this time.

As it was, her time for the classic Olympic distance outperformed each and every modern Olympic marathon winner (all, of course, men) from 1896 to 1948!

"Women seem to tire less fast and grow less stiff than men over longer distances," writes James F. Fix, author of a US book on running.

In the year ahead, it can be confidently forecast, women will make even greater strides in sport, by they uphill or, as in Alppine skiing events, downhill.

Competitive sport for women today is tough, no less though than for men. Whatever happened to the teams of girls in days gone by who gracefully seemed to prove the point that there was a world of difference between sport for men and physical exercise for the fair sex?

It must surely have been one of the greatest misunderstandings ever to believe that women were not interested in competitive sporting performances but merely in graceful movement for its own sake.

The mistaken idea was that whereas men might go in for football or judo, women preferred gymnastics and dancing. It could hardly have been further from the truth.

The fair sex are no longer prepared to keep up appearances and allow fun to be poked at them on this score. They may still wear make-up, but in sport it might be better to call it war paint.

They have declared war on men on the field of play and are steadily making inroads into traditionally all-male domains.

Women judokas recently held their first world championships in New York's Madison Square Garden. Yet until 1970 they were forbidden, for allegedly aesthetic reasons, to hit the mat; it was strictly standing only. It was tantamount to calling a halt to the long jump in mid-air at 5.99 metres because women were forbidden to jump over six metres, "for aesthetic reasons," of course.

Women overrode the prejudice they faced, mainly from men, and they are sure to do so not only in judo but also in other sports in which they are still banned from competition. Why not a women's marathon at the Olympics, for instance?

Women enjoy the reputation of being outstanding in events that require endurance. If ever the International Olympic Committee were to consider the 100 km as a long-distance event, the fair sex could well be first past the post.

Gerhard Seehase

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 25 December 1980)

Shot-putter Beatrix Philipp. (Photo: Sven Simon)

Continued from page 14

[...]aises of the Rhenish landscape or [...] the centenary of the completion [...] of Cologne Cathedral while at the [...] time systematically destroying it

[...]aust fumes from motor vehicles, [...] central heating and chemical [...]ies along the river are doing the [...] work, as are mass transport and [...] new road after another.

[...]strial enterprises and local authorities that share the dubious privilege of [...] major polluters must own up to [...] if anything, they are doing for the [...] from which they profit.

[...] there any hope left of salvaging the [...]anticism of the Rhine and averting [...]nation?

[...] Drachenfels, a Rhenish landmark, [...] the first instance of nature conser[...] in Germany. In 1826 local people [...]teered to restore and maintain it. [...] result, in 1836, it was bought by [...] Prussian authorities for maintenance [...] historic monument.

[...]vate initiative has more recently re[...] Rolandseck railway station, near [...] a mid-19th century building in [...]te classical style that was threa[...]d by demolition.

[...] more than 10 years a group of [...]rned citizens successfully challeng[...] the decision to build a four-lane [...]way along the banks of the Rhine at [...], between Rüdesheim and Mainz. [...] new note of environmental concern [...] been sounded.

Horst-Johannes Tümmers

([Köl]ner Stadt-Anzeiger, 25 December 1980)

[...] Tümmers is director of Cologne City [...]